

Washington banning U.S. flights to all Cuban cities but Havana

By MATTHEW LEE, MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and GISELA SALOMON

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The Trump administration is banning U.S. flights to all Cuban cities except Havana in the latest move to roll back the Obama-era easing of relations, officials said Friday. Supporters of the ban said it would starve the Havana government of cash and limit its ability to repress Cubans and support Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, whom the U.S. wants to overthrow. Opponents said prohibiting flights would simply make it harder for Cuban-Americans to visit their families outside the capital, without making a significant impact on the Cuban government.

The State Department said JetBlue flights to Santa Clara in central Cuba and the eastern cities of Holguin, Camaguey would be banned starting in December. American Airlines flights to Camaguey, Holguin and Santa Clara, the beach resort of Varadero and the eastern city of Santiago are also being banned.

"This action will prevent the Castro regime from profiting from U.S. air travel and using the revenues to re-



In this Aug. 31, 2016 file photo, airport workers receive JetBlue flight 387, the first commercial flight between the U.S. and Cuba in more than a half century, holding a United States, and a Cuban national flag, on the airport tarmac in Santa Clara, Cuba.

Associated Press

press the Cuban people," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Twitter. Raul Castro stepped down as president last year but remains head of the Communist Party, the country's highest authority.

Another stated reason for the move is to prevent tourism to Cuba, which is barred by U.S. law. But

it is not clear how many people take the banned flights for tourism purposes. Many are used by Cuban-Americans visiting relatives in cities far from Havana by road. "Eager to punish Cuba's unbreakable defiance, imperialism is going after regular flights to various Cuban cities. It doesn't matter that they're affect-

ing family relations, or the modest pocketbooks of most Cubans in both countries," Carlos F. de Cossio, head of Cuba's department of U.S. affairs, said on Twitter. "Our response isn't changing."

Charter flights to destinations outside Havana are apparently not affected by the ban, but those flights

tend to be more expensive and far less convenient. The other remaining legal option is a flight to Havana and then a road trip that could last as much as eight to more than 12 hours over rutted, unsafe roads, in the case of Cuba's eastern cities.

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JetBlue and American issued brief statements saying they would comply with the decision.

The announcement coincided with an event in Miami calling for regime change in Cuba and featuring U.S. officials, Organization of Americans States President Luis Almagro, and a variety of Cuban-Americans and Cuban dissidents.

"This is a step forward," said Cuba-born barber Ernesto Regues, who said he left the island in 2012 and still has family in Havana. "Now they need to stop the flights to Havana."

Carrie Filipetti, deputy assistant secretary for Cuba and Venezuela in the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, said Havana would serve as the gateway for Cuban-Americans wanting to see their relatives.

"We want to make sure that Cuban-Americans do have a route to their families. You need to enter. Havana is currently carved out for this," she said.



People fill up with fuel at a gas station in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019.

She warned, however, that "we will continue to increase sanctions" and said other countries should do the same.

"It is a long path with many steps along the way," she said to a standing ovation. The Trump administration has been regularly tightening the six-decade-old embargo on Cuba in recent months with the stated purpose of cutting off income to the Cuban government and forcing it to cut ties to

Venezuela and grant more human rights to Cuban citizens. Washington has barred U.S. cruise ships visiting Cuba, sanctioned oil

tankers moving petroleum from Venezuela to Cuba and permitted lawsuits against foreign companies profiting from their use

of properties confiscated from Americans or from Cubans who later obtained American citizenship.

The measures have contributed to the Cuban government's chronic shortages of hard currency and were blamed for several weeks of fuel shortages on the island, but so far there is no indication that the Trump policy is having its desired effect. Cuba's security services continue to detain and harass dissenters and human rights groups say freedom of expression, assembly and other rights remain highly curtailed.

The Cuban and Venezuelan government remain tightly aligned and both have declared their intent to become even closer allies in the face of the Trump measures. □

Associated Press

New carrier heads to sea for tests amid debate over delays

By BEN FINLEY

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) —

The nation's newest aircraft carrier left a Virginia shipyard and returned to sea for more tests Friday, just days after fresh concerns were raised in Washington over when the highly advanced ship will be ready for combat.

The USS Gerald R. Ford departed for sea trials in the wake of a public back-and-forth between a congresswoman and U.S. Navy leaders over delays, cost overruns and systems that aren't fully operational.

For example, not all of the ship's weapons elevators, which transport missiles and bombs to the flight deck, have been completed.

Speaking at a congressional hearing Tuesday, U.S. Rep. Elaine Luria said the Ford should have been deployable in 2018 but may not be ready until 2024.

"I just truly don't feel this is a great investment as a taxpayer — \$13 billion on a ship that's going to deploy six years past its



This Dec. 15, 2017, file photo shows the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford.

Associated Press

original design timeline," said Luria, a Navy veteran and Democrat whose district includes the world's largest Navy base on Virginia's coast.

Luria added later that six aircraft carriers at the base aren't currently deployable for various reasons.

"We basically invested \$13 billion on a nuclear-powered berthing barge ..." she said of the Ford.

James F. Geurts, an assistant secretary of the Navy, responded during the hearing that the Ford should be ready before 2024. The next day, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer said during a

talk at the Brookings Institution that Luria disparaged a ship that's helping the Navy develop new technology.

"The way we went to the moon was because the country was behind this, to get us to the moon with new technologies," Spencer said. "We're going to work this out."

The new carrier is designed to carry a wider variety of planes, potentially including unmanned aircraft, and operate with several hundred fewer sailors. A new electromagnetic system for launching planes is supposed to increase flying missions by a third. □

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Trump's company exploring sale of landmark Washington hotel

By **BERNARD CONDON** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's company said Friday it is exploring the sale of its landmark Washington hotel after nearly three years of ethics complaints and lawsuits accusing him of trying to profit off the presidency. The Trump Organization says it will consider offers to buy out the 60-year lease on the Trump International Hotel, which since opening in late 2016 has become a magnet for lobbyists and diplomats looking to gain favor with the administration.

"People are objecting to us making so much money on the hotel and therefore we may be willing to sell," said Eric Trump, an executive vice president of the Trump Organization. "Since we opened our doors, we have received tremendous interest in this hotel and as real-estate developers, we are always willing to explore our options."

The opulent, 263-room hotel built in the Old Post Office down the street from the White House has hosted parties thrown by diplomats from the Philippines, Kuwait and other countries, and has been among Trump's biggest money makers. It is at the center of two lawsuits accusing the president of violating the emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution, which bars presidents from receiving gifts or payments from foreign governments.

According to Trump's most recent financial disclosure, the hotel took in \$41 million in revenue last year, up less than half a million dollars from the previous year.

In his statement, Eric Trump said the Trump Organization agreed to not actively solicit foreign government business for the hotel when his father took office, and its success has been all the more remarkable given that voluntary restraint.

But Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert and Trump critic, said the idea that the hotel has made sacrifices to avoid con-

flicts is "nonsense" and the Trump Organization may be selling now because it fears the profits will fall if the president is not re-elected. "There is no reason to think that Republican Party operatives or a trade association that wants to curry favor with the next president will choose this hotel," said Clark, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis. "It will just be another fancy hotel."

Other government watchdogs saw danger with the sale itself: Will the buyer pay more than the hotel is worth in attempt to get in good with the administration? And what if the buyer is from overseas?

"If the Trump Organization puts out a 'For Sale' sign on the Trump International Hotel and seeks and takes bids, it will create massive conflicts of interests with the deep-pocketed individuals, foreign governments, investment funds or corporations that could afford to make such a purchase," said Robert Weissman, president of Public Citizen, a liberal-leaning consumer advocacy group.

The possible sale comes at a fraught time for the Trump real estate empire. Several residential buildings and hotels paying to brand themselves with the Trump name have removed it because of his politics. And the president earlier this month pulled plans to hold a Group of Seven summit at his Doral resort near Miami amid criticism it would be a brazen violation of the emoluments clause. Trump later lashed out about the reversal, saying, "You people with this phony emoluments clause."

After winning a contract from the federal government to lease the 121-year-old, Romanesque Revival-style post office in 2013, Trump spent \$200 million renovating it into a hotel.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the Trump Organization is hoping to get more than \$500 million in the sale. But Sean Hennessey, CEO of consultancy Lodging Advisors, said that while he has no

idea what the sale could actually bring in, it is rare to get more than \$1 million for each guest room, which would translate into \$263 million.

Any sale would have to be approved by the agency overseeing the lease, the General Services Administration, as well as a lawyer hired by the Trump Organization to vet such deals for conflicts of interest.

In his statement, Eric Trump addressed concerns about conflicts of interest by noting the company cuts a check to the U.S. Treasury each year for what it calculates as "profit" from foreign government business at its hotels and other properties. That amounted to \$191,538 last year, up from \$151,470 the previous year. □



In this Jan. 23, 2019, file photo, the Trump International Hotel near sunset in Washington.

Associated Press




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Judge hands Democrats a victory in impeachment inquiry

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A judge on Friday ordered the Justice Department to give the House secret grand jury testimony from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, handing a victory to Democrats as they gather evidence for the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump.

In a ruling that also af-

firmed the legality of the impeachment inquiry itself, U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell ordered the department to turn over the materials by Oct. 30. A Justice Department spokeswoman said it was reviewing the decision. The administration can appeal. The ruling in favor of the House Judiciary Committee comes as Democrats gather closed-door testimony from current and former

government officials about the Trump administration's efforts to get Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden and the Democrats. The Mueller materials could reveal previously hidden details to lawmakers about Trump's actions during the 2016 election and become part of the impeachment push.

The material covered by Howell's order consists of redacted grand jury material mentioned in Mueller's report. The Justice Department says the grand jury information is the only piece of the document that key lawmakers have not had access to. Democrats believe the still-redacted information could shed new light on key episodes of the investigation, including discussions Trump is reported to have had with associates about the release of stolen emails during the campaign and conversations about a 2016 Trump Tower meeting at which Trump's oldest son expected to receive damaging information about Hillary Clinton.

In a 75-page ruling accompanying the order, Howell slashed through many of the administration's arguments for withholding materials from Congress, including that there was need for continued secrecy. The judge said the materials could inform lawmakers as they decide what witnesses to call for an impeachment inquiry and what additional lines of investigation should be pursued.

"The reality is that DOJ and the White House have been openly stonewalling the House's efforts to get information by subpoena and by agreement, and the White House has flatly stated that the Administration will not cooperate with congressional requests for information," Howell wrote. While the Justice Department said it could not provide grand jury material under existing law, "DOJ is wrong," she wrote. And though the White House and its Republican allies argued impeachment is il-



President Donald Trump speaks at the 2019 Second Step Presidential Justice Forum at Benedict College, Friday, Oct. 25, 2019, in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

legitimate without a formal vote, she wrote: "A House resolution has never, in fact, been required."

The judge also rejected the Justice Department's argument that impeachment does not qualify as a "judicial proceeding." That distinction matters because, though grand jury testimony is ordinarily secret, one exemption that allows it to be legally disclosed is in connection with a judicial proceeding.

"To the extent the House's role in the impeachment context is to investigate misconduct by the President and ascertain whether that conduct amounts to an impeachable offense warranting removal from office, the House performs a function somewhat akin to a grand jury," the judge wrote.

"The court's thoughtful ruling recognizes that our impeachment inquiry fully comports with the Constitution and thoroughly rejects the spurious White House claims to the contrary," Nadler said in a statement. "This grand jury information that the Administration has tried to block the House from seeing will be critical to our work."

Justice Department lawyers argued against providing the materials at a hearing earlier this month. They pointed out that House Democrats already had significant evidence from Mueller's investigation, including copies of summaries of FBI witness interviews. But the judge said that in-

formation is no substitute for the actual testimony.

"To insure most effectively against being misled, HJC must have access to all essential pieces of testimony by witnesses, including testimony given under oath to the grand jury," Howell said, referring to the House Judiciary Committee.

"Additionally, for purposes of assessing and following up on the Mueller Report's conclusions, the full Report is needed: the grand jury material may offer unique insights, insights not contained in the rest of the Report, congressional testimony" or FBI reports, she added.

Many of the key witnesses in the Trump orbit, including former White House counsel Don McGahn, submitted to voluntary interviews before Mueller's team rather than appear before the grand jury, making it unclear how much significant new information tied to the president is contained in the grand jury transcripts. The department also argued that the House panel could not show how the material would help in the committee's investigations of Trump.

The Mueller report found insufficient evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between Russia and the 2016 Trump campaign. It also examined multiple episodes in which Trump sought to thwart the investigation and pointedly determined that he could not be exonerated on obstruction of justice allegations.

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Tally of children split at border tops 5,400 in new count

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — U.S. immigration authorities separated more than 1,500 children from their parents at the Mexico border early in the Trump administration, the American Civil Liberties Union said Thursday, bringing the total number of children separated since July 2017 to more than 5,400.

The ACLU said the administration told its attorneys that 1,556 children were separated from July 1, 2017, to June 26, 2018, when a federal judge in San Diego ordered that children in government custody be reunited with their parents.

Children from that period can be difficult to find because the government had inadequate tracking systems. Volunteers working with the ACLU are searching for some of them and their parents by going door-to-door in Guatemala and Honduras.

Of those separated during the 12-month period, 207 were under 5, said attorney Lee Gelernt of the ACLU, which sued to stop family separation. Five were under a year old, 26 were a year old, 40 were 2 years old, 76 were 3, and 60 were 4.

"It is shocking that 1,556 more families, including babies and toddlers, join the thousands of others already torn apart by this inhumane and illegal policy," said Gelernt. "Families have suffered tremendously, and some may never recover."

The Justice Department declined to comment.

The count is a milestone in accounting for families who have been touched by Trump's widely maligned effort against illegal immigration. The government identified 2,814 separated children who were in government custody on June 26, 2018, nearly all of whom have been reunited.

The U.S. Health and Human Services Depart-

ment's internal watchdog said in January that potentially thousands more had been separated since July 2017, prompting U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw to give the administration six months to identify them. The ACLU said it received the last batch of 1,556 names one day ahead of Friday's deadline.

The administration has also separated 1,090 children since the judge ordered a halt to the practice in June 2018 except in limited circumstances, like threats to child safety or doubts about whether the adult is really the parent.

The ACLU said the authorities have abused their discretion by separating fami-

lies over dubious allegations and minor transgressions including traffic offenses. It has asked Sabraw to more narrowly define circumstances that would justify separation, which the administration has opposed. With Thursday's disclosure, the number of children separated since July 2017 reached 5,460.

The government lacked tracking systems when the administration formally launched a "zero tolerance" policy in the spring of 2018 to criminally prosecute every adult who entered the country illegally from Mexico, sparking an international outcry when parents couldn't find their children.



In this Dec. 11, 2018 file photo, an asylum-seeking boy from Central America runs down a hallway after arriving from an immigration detention center to a shelter in San Diego.

Associated Press

Poor tracking before the spring of 2018 complicates the task of accounting for children who were separated early on. As of Oct. 16, the ACLU said, volunteers couldn't reach 362 families by phone because numbers didn't work or the sponsor who took custody was unable or unwilling to pro-

vide contact information for the parent, prompting the door-to-door searches in Central America.

Since retreating on family separation, the administration has tried other ways to reverse a major surge in asylum seekers, many of them Central American families. □



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AP-NORC poll: Most Americans oppose reparations for slavery

By **COREY WILLIAMS and NOREEN NASIR**
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Few Americans are in favor of giving reparations to descendants of enslaved black people in the United States, a poll shows, even as the idea has gained momentum among Democratic presidential contenders.

Only 29% of Americans say the government should pay cash reparations, according to the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll. But the poll reveals a large divide between Americans of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Most black Americans, 74%, favor reparations, compared with 15% of white Americans. Among Hispanics, 44% favor reparations.

Lori Statzer, 79, of West Palm Beach, Florida, opposes cash reparations and an official government apology. "None of the black people in America today are under the slavery issue," said Statzer, who is white. "It's over with."

Using taxpayers' money to pay reparations "would be unfair to me," she added. "My ancestors came to this country, worked hard to become Americans and never asked for anything." Poll respondents also were sharply divided by race on whether the U.S. government should issue an apology for slavery: 64% of white Americans oppose a government apology, while 77% of black Americans and 64% of Hispanics believe an apology is due. Overall, 46% of Americans favor and 52% oppose a national apology.

Not everyone realizes how horrible slavery was to black Americans, said 63-year-old Nathan Jordan, adding that the federal government should apologize for slavery "because it was wrong."

While he supports reparations, Jordan, who is black and lives in Vienna, Georgia, can't put a dollar figure on what would be fair. "I don't think the government could even afford that," he said. "I don't know



In this April 10, 2019 file photo, Reparations Labor Union founder Anita Belle talks about slave reparations during an interview in Detroit.

Associated Press

what the value would be. There are still a lot of (black) people trying to catch up. I'm not sure if they'll ever catch up."

Alicia Cheek, 56, of Ashboro, North Carolina, who is black, opposes both reparations and a government apology, saying white people today "can't be liable for what their ancestors did." She also questions how a fair amount could be determined.

The nation is marking 400 years since the first slave ship sailed to what would become the United States, bringing about 20 slaves to the British colony at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619.

Over the next two centuries, more than 300,000 men, women and children were forcibly brought to what is now the U.S. from Africa, according to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database.

The debate on reparations has flared on and off since the moment slavery in the U.S. officially ended in 1865. After the Civil War, Union Army Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman promised compensation to freed slaves in the form of land and mules to farm it — hence the phrase "40 acres and a mule." But President Andrew Johnson took

away the offer.

More than 120 years later, then-Rep. John Conyers, a Detroit Democrat, introduced legislation to establish a commission to develop reparations proposals. He reintroduced it in every congressional session until he resigned in 2017, and it was reintroduced last year by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat. Presidential candidate and Democratic Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey filed a Senate companion bill this year.

Other Democratic candidates have come out in support of reparations or at least a commission to study it. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, has publicly opposed the idea of a national reparations policy. Anita Belle, founder of the Reparations Labor Union in Detroit, says "doing the right thing means making amends for what a nation did wrong."

Belle said she was encouraged to see even a low level of support for reparations among white Americans.

"That's still progress," she said. An apology for slavery would help the country move on, said Reuben Miller, assistant professor in

the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. "And by moving on, I don't mean moving on and forgetting," he said. "I mean moving on past the atrocity. It would teach a lesson about the relationship of black Americans with their government." The new poll finds that about 3 in 10 Americans think the history of slavery still has a great deal of influence on black Americans. About another 3 in 10 think it has a fair amount of influence.

And many see enduring disadvantages for black Americans in public life. About two-thirds of Americans think white people are treated more fairly than black people by police, and about half see advantages for white people in applying for jobs or shopping in stores.

"We have to look at righting the wrong with cash to the people that were done wrong," Belle said. "To just say we aren't going to do anything is to just perpetuate the wrong." □

Census Bureau: Noncitizens can be hired for language gaps

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A Census Bureau official says noncitizens can be hired as workers for the 2020 Census if they speak a language that's needed for the count and a citizen is unavailable to do the job. Tim Olson, an associate director, made the announcement this week as the agency kicked off a recruiting and hiring initiative.

The bureau hopes to hire as many as 500,000 temporary workers for next spring's count.

Olson says appropriations law requires that only U.S. citizens be hired, but there's an exception for people who fill a language need when there are no U.S. citizens available.

The 2020 Census count will determine how many congressional seats each state gets and the allocation of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal money. □



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Firefighters race to control blazes before winds roar back

By **STEFANIE DAZIO** and **BRIAN MELLEY**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Howling winds that fueled destructive wildfires across California began to die down Friday, but residents in the northern part of the state braced for another round of power outages aimed at preventing what are expected to be the strongest gusts in years from sparking more blazes this weekend.

Fires have destroyed dozens of buildings in Northern California wine country and in subdivisions on the outskirts of Los Angeles, where flames shut down a freeway and smoke forced schools to close. Officials are trying to gain some control of the flames as the wind tapers off — for now. The state was under extreme fire danger like it's probably never seen before, Emergency Services Director Mark Ghilarducci said. Wildfires are growing deadlier and more destructive amid climate change. California's largest utility admitted its electrical equipment may have ignited the wildfire amid Sonoma County's vineyards despite blackouts imposed to prevent blazes.

Even as Pacific Gas & Electric restored power to most of the half million people without electricity, it warned of outages that could hit 2 million in north and central parts of the state from Saturday until Monday.

PG&E resorted to shutoffs after equipment malfunctions and trees blowing

into power lines sparked several blazes in recent years that killed scores of people, burned thousands of homes and ran up billions of dollars in claims that drove the utility into bankruptcy.

The drastic measure has been widely criticized for poor planning and execution that has left people in the dark even when they weren't in areas facing fire danger.

Linda York of San Jose was trying to make weekend plans with her teenage grandson but was getting stressed out as she got peppered by text messages from PG&E warning about the possible blackouts.

"You're watching the clock, and you're waiting for it to happen," she said. "It almost feels like the apocalypse is coming."

The fire near the Northern California town of Geyserville burned at least 49 buildings and 34 square miles (65 square kilometers), prompting evacuation orders for some 2,000 people.

"I just visited a number of structures that were destroyed," Gov. Gavin Newsom said at a news conference. "Familiar sights to all of us, devastating sights to those impacted lives literally torn asunder."

Firefighters were hoping to take advantage of a lull in gusts to build a perimeter around the fire near Geyserville, but Fire Chief Thom Porter worried winds resurfacing Saturday night would make it difficult to hold those lines.

"We're working diligently



Debris from a hilltop home smolders after being burned by the Tick Fire, Thursday, Oct. 25, 2019, in Santa Clarita, Calif.

on closing the doors that are open on this fire," Porter said.

Meanwhile, a fire driven by hot, dry Santa Ana winds howling up to 50 mph (80 kph) threatened the suburb of Santa Clarita north of Los Angeles and forced the evacuation of 50,000 people.

The cause of the fire was unknown, but Southern California Edison said it had cut off power to the area five hours before it broke out Thursday.

At least six homes were destroyed, and officials said the number was expected to rise as they took a more thorough look. No immediate injuries were reported. Sean Malin, 27, evacuated from Santa Clarita with his mother and their two dogs after police officers drove down their street and told

them to leave. "It's a huge inconvenience," he said. "On the other hand, I know that the worst thing we could possibly do is get in the way of a firefight that needs to happen." Some residents tried to fight the blaze with garden hoses. People rushed to rescue dozens of horses, donkeys, goats, a pig and an emu. Officials said a firefighting helicopter was grounded after its windshield was damaged by a collision with a bird.

The fire jumped a highway and roared through dry grass and chaparral as it grew to nearly 7 square miles (18 square kilometers). High winds were expected to taper off by Friday evening. Despite the break, Southern California Edison, which shut off electricity to more than 31,000 custom-

ers Thursday, was considering additional power cuts to 132,000.

The huge Los Angeles school district closed all its schools in the San Fernando Valley, citing poor air quality and other safety concerns.

While the high winds in Northern California had died down by Friday, they were expected to pick up over the weekend, with gusts of 40 to 60 mph (64 to 97 kph) in many places.

The dangerous conditions led PG&E to warn it may black out an even larger region, on par with the nearly 2 million people who lost electricity earlier this month.

PG&E chief meteorologist Scott Strenfel said Northern California could be in for the strongest offshore winds in years. □

Associated Press

4th suspect arrested as UK truck deaths case probe deepens

By **DANICA KIRKA**

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A fourth person was arrested in connection with the deaths of 39 people found in the back of a container truck in southeastern England, British police said Friday as the investigation into one of the country's worst human smuggling cases geared up.

Police said a 48-year-old man from Northern Ireland was arrested Friday at England's Stansted Airport on suspicion of manslaughter and conspiracy to traffic people. The arrest came after police arrested a man and a woman, both 38 and from northwestern England, earlier Friday on the same charges. The 25-year-old driver of the truck remains in custody on suspicion of murder.

Essex Police said 31 men and eight women were found dead in the truck early Wednesday at an industrial park in Grays, a town 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of London. Although U.K. police said they believed the dead were Chinese citizens, they acknowledged Friday this was a "developing picture." China said it could not yet confirm the victims' nationalities or identities.

The Vietnamese Embassy in London said Friday that it contacted police about



Demonstrators hold a banner during a vigil for the 39 lorry victims, outside the Home Office in London, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019.

a missing woman feared to be one of the dead. An embassy spokesman said it was contacted by a family in Vietnam who says their daughter had been missing since the truck was found. The BBC reported it had been in contact with six Vietnamese families who feared their relatives are among the victims. Relatives of 26-year-old Pham Tra My told the broadcaster they had been unable to contact her since receiving a text Tuesday night saying she was suffocating.

"I'm so sorry mom and dad... My journey abroad doesn't succeed," she wrote. "Mom, I love you and dad very much. I'm dying because

I can't breathe Mom, I'm so sorry." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China was working in cooperation with local authorities. "No matter where these victims come from, this is a great tragedy which drew the attention of the international community to the issue of illegal immigration," she said. "The international community should further strengthen cooperation in this area, strengthen sharing of information and intelligence ... to prevent such tragedies from happening again." Hua said Chinese authorities were also seeking information from police in Belgium, since the ship-

ping container in which the bodies were found was sent to England from the Belgian port of Zeebrugge. Human smuggling from China is believed to have fallen drastically in recent years amid the country's rapidly growing domestic economy. However, some Chinese, particularly those with lesser education, continue to be drawn to Europe and North America by the promise of much higher wages than they can earn at home, despite the considerable risks involved. Parts of China, especially the southeastern province of Fujian, have long histories of sending migrants abroad. The issue is a dif-

Associated Press

ficult one for China's ruling Communist Party, which is intensely sensitive about China's international image and has staked much of its legitimacy to rule on improving living standards for the bulk of China's 1.4 billion people.

In an editorial Friday, the party newspaper Global Times said authorities in Britain and elsewhere hadn't done enough to crack down on people smuggling. "Such a serious humanitarian disaster occurred under the eyes of the British and Europeans," the newspaper said. "Britain and the related European countries have not met their responsibility for protecting these people from dying in such a manner."

British police believe the truck and container took separate journeys before ending up at the industrial park. They say the container traveled by ferry from Zeebrugge to Purfleet, England, where it arrived early Wednesday and was picked up by the truck driver and driven the few miles to Grays. The truck cab, which is registered in Bulgaria to a company owned by an Irish woman, is believed to have traveled from Northern Ireland to Dublin, where it caught a ferry to Wales, then drove across Britain to pick up the container. □

Rescue ship Ocean Viking stuck at sea with 104 migrants

By **COLLEEN BARRY**

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — The humanitarian rescue ship Ocean Viking remained stuck at sea Friday with 104 migrants on board, a week after rescuing them off Libya despite an EU plan designed to resolve such cases.

French charities SOS Mediterranee and Doctors without Borders, which operate the ship, say they have requested permission to land in either Italy or Malta. But SOS Mediterranee said there has been no response so far.

The Ocean Viking was previously offered Libya as a place of safety, but refused



The Ocean Viking rescue ship enters in the commercial port of Taranto in Taranto, southern Italy, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

to land there. SOS Mediterranee said that "no port in Libya can be considered safe according to international law."

Only seven EU countries

have agreed to participate in a "fast-track" plan, which would screen migrants, relocate asylum-seekers and return those who don't apply or qualify within four

weeks. Seven humanitarian groups met on Friday with Italy's interior minister, Luciana Lamorgese, pressing their case for organized rescues that put the primary responsibility on national governments.

The groups said that a system needed to be put in place that "is capable of guaranteeing respect for life and human rights, containing death and suffering." They urged an end to interceptions of migrant ships by the Libyan coast guard, which they called a violation of international law since Libya is not regarded as a safe port by the EU or the United Na-

tions. And they called on Europe to agree to disembark migrants in the nearest port, "avoiding days of waiting in physically and psychologically vulnerable conditions, as is happening today for the Ocean Viking."

The groups participating in the meeting were Doctors without Borders, Mediterranee, Open Arms, Pilotes Volontaires, Sea Eye, Sea Watch and SOS Mediterranee.

Lamorgese's office called the meeting "a first step towards launching an exchange between the parties," the news agency ANSA reported. □



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Chaos in South Africa opposition party as black leader quits

By **MOGOMOTSI MAGOME**
ANDREW MELDRUM
Associated Press
JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

The effort by South Africa's biggest opposition party to appeal to black voters is in tatters following the resignation of its first black leader and other top officials, highlighting deep racial divisions that remain in the country a quarter-century after the end of the harsh system of apartheid. Mmusi Maimane quit the Democratic Alliance on Thursday after stepping down as party leader the day before, leaving many South Africans to predict that black supporters would flee as well.

Maimane and other officials resigned just days after the return of Helen Zille, a divisive figure who once famously tweeted that colonialism wasn't all bad, pointing to industrial development and educational advances under colonial rule. That 2017 tweet is still hotly criticized today. Zille's new role as national chair has been interpreted by many as the return of the DA to its "rightful owners," South Africa's white minority. "Despite my best efforts, perhaps the DA is not the best vehicle to take forward the fight for one South Africa for all," Maimane said, following the party exit of



In this May 4, 2019 file photo Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Mmusi Maimane addresses supporters at an election rally in Soweto, South Africa.

Pledges for global climate fund reach \$9.8 billion

Associated Press
PARIS (AP) — Governments across the world have pledged \$9.8 billion to help poor nations tackle climate change at a conference the United States did not take part in, the fund coordinating support said Friday. Yannick Glemarec, the executive director of the Green Climate Fund, said 27 countries announced contributions by the end of the two-day conference in Paris. The United States did not make any pledge, as U.S. President Donald Trump has decided to stop paying into the fund. "We will most likely be able to find additional resources" before the United Nations' annual climate conference, which will be held in December in Santiago, Chile, Glemarec said. He said the extra money will increase the fund's capacity from about \$1.4 billion per year now to \$2.4

billion per year in the period from 2020 to 2024. French finance minister Bruno Le Maire, speaking earlier Friday, praised "a great success" that he attributed largely to European countries, noting that almost half of the amount is being provided by France, Germany and Britain alone. "Many countries will double their contributions," Le Maire said. The South Korea-based fund, which provides money to help developing countries reduce their emissions and cope with the impacts of climate change, says it has nearly exhausted some \$7 billion received following an initial funding round five years ago. Trump's decision to withhold \$2 billion of the \$3 billion pledged by his predecessor, Barack Obama, has contributed to a shortfall at the fund that other countries have struggled to fill. □

another prominent black DA figure, Johannesburg mayor Herman Mashaba, earlier this week. Both were criticized in an internal report for the party's lackluster performance in the national elections in May. Support for the DA slipped to 20% of votes from 22% in the previous elections. The DA lost support from some of its more conservative white voters, who opted instead for the right-wing Afrikaner party Freedom Front Plus. The internal report was critical of Maimane's leadership and blamed him for the drop in white support. "The relentless focus of winning over black supporters was understandable, but taking existing voters for granted was always a mistake," it said. "It is striking that over a period of many years, the DA failed to heed a number of warnings that it was alienating sections of the white Afrikaans electorate." Although Zille, a former anti-apartheid journalist, stepped aside in 2015 to allow Maimane to lead the party, she has been re-as-

serting herself and is widely viewed to have been behind the criticism of him. Maimane's election as the party's first black leader was significant, and the DA gained ground in black communities despite its history. It was formed in 2000 as a result of a merger between the former liberal, white Democratic Party and the New National Party, a re-branded offshoot of the National Party which implemented the old segregation policy of apartheid. Under Maimane the DA won control of key urban areas in 2016 and party members became mayors in Johannesburg, Pretoria and elsewhere. For the first time an opposition party was posing a growing threat to the African National Congress, the former liberation movement that has ruled South Africa since the end of apartheid and won elections by comfortable margins, confident of the support of black voters. The DA attracted other black politicians including Lindiwe Mazibuko, who

became the party's parliamentary leader, and Patricia de Lille, who became mayor of the DA-governed city of Cape Town. Both later resigned, reportedly after clashing with Zille. De Lille has gone on to found her own party. Now the DA will find it hard to attract the support of black South Africans and avoid the resignations of other black leaders, said Ralph Mathekga, a political analyst and researcher at the University of the Western Cape. Maimane and Mashaba may well decide to start their own political party, Mathekga said. "They are credible leaders and some people feel they have been failed by the DA. There is certainly room for them to explore that space." They might even be courted by the South African opposition party that gained ground in this year's election, the populist Economic Freedom Fighters, who have won support among people fed up with the country's high unemployment and dramatic economic inequality. □

Lebanon Hezbollah warns protests could lead to chaos, war

By SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group said Friday that nationwide protests against the country's political class have been exploited by foreign powers and were no longer spontaneous, warning they could drag the country toward civil war.

Hassan Nasrallah's comments came shortly after his supporters clashed with anti-government protesters in central Beirut. His supporters rejected the protesters equating the powerful group's leader with other corrupt politicians they want to see step down. A popular refrain in the rallies, now in their ninth day, has been: "All means all."

The unprecedented nationwide protests that began Oct. 17 were triggered by proposed new taxes, including on the use of the WhatsApp mobile application. They came on the heels of an austerity budget that cut public spending, pensions and employee benefits to tackle a deepening economic crisis. Protesters took to the streets



Anti-government protesters and Hezbollah supporters clash during a protest in Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, Oct. 25, 2019.

in the capital Beirut and in cities in the north and south in some of the largest protests in nearly 15 years. The rallies have brought together Lebanese from all groups and sects against politicians who have been in power since the country's civil war ended in 1990, some even before.

On Friday, Nasrallah said the protests are no longer

popular or spontaneous. He said the rallies have been exploited by political rivals as well as regional and international powers that oppose Hezbollah. He did not elaborate on the allegations of foreign interference but said his group has information of such collusion.

"It is no longer a popular movement, protests about

health and the environment and hunger and recession," he said in an hour-long televised speech.

Iran-backed Hezbollah is facing widening U.S. sanctions amid tension between Washington and Tehran. The militant group dominates the current government and is the country's most powerful organization, building its credibility on its resistance to Israel's occupation of parts of Lebanon.

Nasrallah evoked the specter of new civil war like the one that ended in 1990.

"We are not worried about the resistance," he said. "We are worried for the country that someone is trying to pull it ... toward a civil war."

Nasrallah called on supporters to leave the protests to avoid friction. Just before he spoke, scuffles had broken out in the epicenter of the protests in central Beirut, when Hezbollah supporters entered the area and chanted in support of Nasrallah.

"Nasrallah is more honorable than all of them," the pro-Hezbollah protesters, dressed in black shirts, chanted. Riot police tried to break up the fight, encircling the Hezbollah supporters who had used batons to push back against the anti-government protesters.

As soon as Nasrallah finished his speech, dozens of Hezbollah supporters left the square while chanting in support of the group. Another brief scuffle broke out and the riot police again interfered.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Hezbollah protesters rallied in the group's stronghold in south Beirut, raising the group's yellow flag on their motorcycles. The army and special forces deployed along the road outside Hezbollah's stronghold, known as Dahiyeh, apparently to prevent renewed friction. Members of Hezbollah also deployed on entrance and exits to Dahiyeh, in a clear move to block supporters from heading to central Beirut.

Nasrallah said it is time for the protesters to find representatives to negotiate with the government over their original demands for better living conditions and accountability for senior officials. He called on protesters to stop blocking roads as part of their civil disobedience campaign. Despite government promises of reforms, the protesters have dug in, saying the country's incumbent officials are corrupt and must go. They have set up tents, blocking traffic in main thoroughfares and sleeping in public squares on Friday to enforce a civil disobedience campaign and keep pressure on the government to step down.

"We will accept nothing less than the resignation of the government, the president, dissolving the parliament and holding early parliamentary elections," said Mohammad Mazloum, an engineer who has been protesting since the protests began. Banks, universities and schools remained closed Friday. On the highway linking eastern and western Beirut, protesters allowed only ambulances and army vehicles through. Protesters waved banners that read: "You have put up with the state, bear with us for a couple of days," to motorists who arrived at a blocked road linking eastern Beirut to its southern suburbs.

2 bombs in eastern Afghanistan kill 7, including a child

By TAMEEM AKHGAR

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A Taliban suicide attack on Friday targeted a convoy carrying officials from Afghanistan's intelligence service, killing five people including a child in eastern Nangarhar province, the provincial governor's spokesman said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the explosion in the center of the provincial capital Jalalabad. The powerful blast wounded 21 people, including six security personnel, said Attaullah Khogyani. Hours later, a second explosion targeted a checkpoint at the congested entrance to Jalalabad killing two security personnel. Six people were wounded, said Khogyani. The explosion happened near a bus stand crowded with people heading to the



An Afghan security personnel arrive at the site of suicide attack in Jalalabad east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, Oct. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

capital of Kabul.

The attacks are the latest in near daily attacks carried out by insurgents. Nangarhar has become increasingly violent in recent years as both the Taliban and an Islamic State group affiliate are active there.

Last week, more than 60 people were killed in a brutal attack on a mosque in the province, and more

than 100 were wounded. No one claimed responsibility for that attack, and the Taliban condemned it, denying involvement.

The United Nations has condemned the growing number of civilian casualties, with more than 8,000 killed and wounded so far this year. The U.N. called on all sides in the conflict to protect civilians. □

Japan trade minister resigns over vote buying scandal

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's trade minister resigned Friday a month into his job in a scandal over condolence money, expensive melons and other gifts allegedly offered to election supporters.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was quick to remove Isshu Sugawara to limit the potential damage to his Cabinet. He accepted the offer to resign and replaced Sugawara with Hiroshi Kajiyama, formerly the minister in charge of local revitalization and regulatory reform. "I bear responsibility for his appointment and I apologize to the people for causing a situation like this," Abe told reporters. But he said he had to move on because "not even a second of standstill or delay is allowed" in the important policy area. Sugawara, 57, tendered his resignation just before he was to face questions from opposition lawmakers about the vote buying allegations later Friday, a day after more tabloid reports about his scandal came out.



Japanese Trade Minister Isshu Sugawara speaks after a cabinet meeting at parliament in Tokyo Friday, Oct. 25, 2019.

Sugawara said he did not want to hold up important discussions in Parliament. The scheduled committee meeting Friday was canceled.

His resignation comes just weeks after Abe added him to the Cabinet in a reshuffling prompted by the July election, in which his ruling coalition secured a

comfortable majority.

Sugawara has been grilled in Parliament recently after a magazine reported earlier that he had paid condolence money and sent expensive melons, crab and other gifts to his election district supporters in 2006-2007. Such payments are considered donations that are against Japanese

Associated Press

elections law. Another magazine article Thursday provided more details of alleged giveaways in his election district of Nerima in Tokyo, which apparently triggered his decision to offer his resignation. Opposition lawmakers said they will not let him off the hook without explanation. "He had to step down be-

cause he cannot provide a clear explanation. Now he is even more suspect," said Tetsuro Fukuyama, secretary general of the opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan. Another opposition lawmaker, Yuichiro Tamaki, head of the Democratic Party of the People, also demanded Sugawara's accountability.

"It's about his alleged violation of the law. He cannot just get away with quitting the Cabinet," Tamaki said. Sugawara denied paying cash to voters but has flip-flopped on other details when asked about the gifts delivered to his supporters in the Nerima district.

The "Weekly Bunshun" magazine wrote Thursday that one of his aides attended a funeral of a supporters' family last week, with a photo showing the man purportedly leaving condolence money at the reception desk. Sugawara routinely had his aides deliver condolence money whenever there is a funeral for supporters' relatives, the magazine said, quoting an unidentified supporter. □

N. Korea proposes talks on destroying S. Korean facilities

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— South Korea said Friday that North Korea formally proposed discussions over the possible demolition of South Korean-made hotels and other tourist facilities at the North's Diamond Mountain resort, which leader Kim Jong Un called "shabby" and "unpleasant-looking."

Kim's comments published by the North's state media on Wednesday came after months of frustration in Pyongyang over the South's refusal to defy international sanctions and resume South Korean tours at the site.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said Friday it received a letter from the North proposing discussions on the issue through exchanges of documents.

The ministry said in a state-

ment that the Seoul government would actively deal with the issue "under the principle that protecting our people's property rights is the top priority." It's unclear what the South can do if the North starts destroying the facilities.

Tours to Diamond Mountain were a major symbol of cooperation between the Koreas and valuable cash source for the North's broken economy before the South suspended them in 2008 after a North Korean guard shot and killed a South Korean tourist.

During a visit to the site, Kim compared the South Korean properties at Diamond Mountain to "make-shift tents in disaster-stricken areas or isolation wards" and ordered them to be replaced by modern North Korean facilities that display more national character and fit better with the

natural scenery. He criticized North Korea's policies under his late father as too dependent on the South while vowing that the North would redevelop the site on its own and fully control future tours, according to Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency. Kim took another jab at Diamond Mountain's South Korean buildings while inspecting the construction of a new spa resort in central North Korea, the KCNA said Friday. Kim said the "refreshing" buildings of Yangdok County Hot Spring Resort were in striking contrast to Diamond Mountain's "architecture of capitalist businesses targeting profit-making from roughly built buildings." Experts are divided over whether the North really intends to independently develop tourism for Diamond Mountain or is pressuring the South to re-



In this undated photo provided on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019, by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, visits the Diamond Mountain resort in Kumgang, North Korea.

Associated Press

start the tours and upgrade aging facilities.

Some say the North during the discussions will demand that the South use its own resources to tear down its facilities. Others say North Korea would struggle to develop the area on its own under heavy sanctions. Any tours to Diamond

Mountain, located on the eastern coast near the inter-Korean border, would be dependent on South Korean travelers as the North's poor transport links make it difficult to bring Chinese tourists there, said Lim Sooho, an analyst from South Korea's Institute for National Security Strategy. □

Argentina's Peronists seek return in polarized election

By **ALMUDENA CALATRAVA**
DÉBORA REY

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Frustration over a bruising economic crisis and rising poverty has eroded support for Argentina's pro-business incumbent ahead of Sunday's presidential election and boosted a populist challenger whose victory would mark a tilt to the center-left in a region rocked by political upheaval.

Polls have President Mauricio Macri trailing Peronist party candidate Alberto Fernández, whose surge has rattled financial markets and drawn attention to a possible return to high office of his vice presidential running mate - former President Cristina Fernández.

Macri took office in 2015 promising to root out corruption and eliminate poverty but is now seeking a second term amid increasing poverty, a sharp depreciation of Argentina's peso and one of the world's worst inflation rates.

He is shouldering most of the blame from voters for the economic woes and they made their frustration clear in primaries in August, when Macri's share of the votes cast trailed Fernández by a nearly 16-percentage point margin. Argentina's unique party primaries - in which all voters cast ballots - are seen as a barometer of support for candidates ahead of its presidential election.

The surprisingly poor performance by Macri caused stocks to plunge and the peso depreciated even more on the possibility of a return to the interventionist economic policies of Cristina Fernández, who governed Argentina from 2007 to 2015. Alberto Fernández was her chief of staff early in her first term. The two are not related.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Alberto Fernández dismissed concerns by investors and some Argentines that he would be unduly influenced by his former boss. "I don't see a conflict there,"



Supporters of Argentine President Mauricio Macri, who is running for reelection with the "Juntos Por el Cambio" party, attend his campaign rally in Cordoba, Argentina, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019. Associated Press

he said. "Argentina's problem is not Cristina. It's what Macri has left behind."

Virtually all recent polls have given Fernández more than 50% support, which would give him a first round victory without a run-off vote.

A win by the Fernández ticket would mark a shift leftward in South America, which has seen conservative governments elected in Brazil, Colombia and Chile in recent years. Cristina Fernández was seen as a member of the "pink tide" of leftist governments that arose in the region in the 1990s and 2000s. Now the region is being rocked by unrest in Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador fueled by popular discontent with the status quo.

Macri is credited with returning Argentina to global credit markets for the first time since its worst economic crisis in 2001-2002. Mariel Fornoni, director of the consultancy Management & Fit, said the president also has opened new markets for Argentina around the world, strengthened its institutions and improved security.

But his main failure has been the economy, Fornoni said.

The World Bank forecasts that Argentina's economy will contract 3.1% this year. More than a third of the country is poor, unemployment is at 10.6%, and infla-

tion is expected to hit 55% this year.

"Poverty has become a big problem," Alberto Fernández said. He promised to rebuild the economy by

pursuing "a policy of agreements" among different economic and social sectors.

Argentina's economy improved slightly in 2017. Then

a severe drought damaged crops in the country, which is one of the world's top suppliers of grains. The economy suffered another blow when the trade war between the United States and China led investors to pull back from emerging markets like Argentina.

Faced with a weakening peso, Macri was forced to seek a record \$56 billion bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund.

The unpopular move brought back bad memories for Argentines who blame the IMF for encouraging policies that led to the country's economic crisis nearly two decades ago.

On the campaign trail, Macri has pleaded for more time to reverse fortunes and reminds voters of the corruption cases facing Cristina Fernández, who has denied any wrongdoing. □

Puerto Rico prepares to bolster power grid battered by Maria



In this Oct. 15, 2017 file photo, Whitefish Energy Holdings workers stand on towers to restore lines damaged by Hurricane Maria in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico.

By **DÁNICA COTO**

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) —

Puerto Rico on Thursday unveiled details of a \$20 billion plan to strengthen and modernize the U.S. territory's shaky power grid more than two years after Hurricane Maria as islanders brace for a looming rate hike amid a recession.

The 10-year plan aims to bury power lines, increase the use of natural gas and create a transmission and distribution system that will withstand winds of at least

160 mph instead of 145 mph. "I know there's great concern," Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vázquez said of recurrent power outages and flimsy repairs made after the Category 4 storm hit in September 2017, leaving some communities without power for 328 days. "Given the condition it's in, we cannot renovate it in two or three years."

At least 60% of the estimated \$20 billion will be used for transmission and distribution repairs, officials said. They expect federal funds

will cover at least \$13 billion of the overall cost.

By year's end, the government expects to choose the company that will take over the transmission and distribution of Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority, which is some \$9 billion in debt. The new owner will be responsible for implementing the plan, which also calls for the creation of eight micro grids capable of operating independently if a storm knocked one out.

That project, along with certain others, will take up to a decade to complete. "We're not where we would like to be," said Ottmar Chávez, director of Puerto Rico's Central Office for Reconstruction, Recovery and Resiliency.

Details of the plan were released the same week that Puerto Rico's Electric Power Company said a regulatory agency ordered a rate hike increase that goes into effect Nov. 1. The increase depends on consumption and could range from 64 cents to nearly \$2 extra a month until mid-2020. □

LOCAL



Celebration with more than \$20,000 in cash prizes Today: Grand Opening Wind Creek Seaport Casino



ORANJESTAD — After months of preparation and renovation, we are ready to welcome you to a brand new casino where 'Island meets modern Dutch'; Wind Creek Seaport Casino. The Grand Opening takes place today starting at 10AM with 12-hours of nonstop fun, music, food, drinks and \$20,000 in cash prizes!

Grand Opening

You are cordially invited to the Grand Opening of Wind Creek Seaport Casino today starting at 10AM. The opening starts with a local brassband presentation to kick off the big celebration by dancing on this contagious Caribbean rhythm followed by a traditional folkloric dance of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians from Alabama representing the blessing for a new beginning. After the official opening ceremony, the celebration continues with 12-hours of nonstop fun, music, food, drinks and \$20,000 in cash prizes!

Nonstop Celebration!

Be part of our big celebration with free play and drawings held every hour from 10AM till 6:30PM. You'll receive one entry ticket for every 75 base-points earned at both Wind Creek Crystal Casino and Wind Creek Seaport Casino from 7AM on Monday, October 21st through 6PM on Saturday, October 26th. On Saturday starting at 2PM, all the fun moves to Wind Creek Seaport Casino, where you'll earn double the entries for the grand prize cash giveaway. Drawings begin at 7PM with prizes every hour and at 10PM we ring the bell and conclude this celebration where one lucky player will be walking away with \$10,000 cash!

We start the celebration at 11AM with special musical performance by Bambu Band till 2PM. After Bambu Band we take you to the Caribbean with some steelpan tunes and give you the chance to explore and discover the new Wind Creek Seaport Casino with the latest in new gaming machines and technology, table gaming, lights effects and much more. Starting at 8PM at the side stage of the Renaissance Marketplace, NFuzion Band will be performing live till 11PM.

More chances to win

To make this grand opening even more special, we're giving you extra chances to earn more entries so that you can walk away with the grand prize of \$10,000 cash. With every \$50 spent on Saturday at Renaissance Mall, Renaissance Marketplace, L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House, Aquarius, Okeanos Spa or Fresco, you handover your receipt at player services, become a Wind Creek Casino Member with a chance to win the grand prize. Entry ticket is valid for every drawing on the hour starting at 7PM. Last call for entries is at 9:30PM. In order to qualify and participate in the drawing, you must be present and be actively signed in into your rewards account.

Join us today and be part of this Grand Opening of Wind Creek Seaport Casino. Don't forget to visit the 'Player Services' of Wind Creek Casinos Aruba to sign up and receive your free rewards card and start earning points. Wind Creek Crystal Casino is open 24-hours and Wind Creek Seaport Casino opens at 10AM thru 4AM. For more information, please visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/CrystalSeaport-Casino or www.WindCreekAruba.com.



About Wind Creek Hospitality

Wind Creek Hospitality is an authority of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Wind Creek Hospitality manages the Tribe's gaming facilities including: Wind Creek Atmore, Wind Creek Wetumpka, Wind Creek Montgomery, Wind Creek Bethlehem, Wa She Shu Casino in Nevada, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino, Renaissance Curacao Resort & Casino, WindCreekCasino.com as well as race-tracks in Alabama and Florida. For more information, visit: <https://windcreekhospitality.com/>.

About the Poarch Band of Creek Indians

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is the only federally recognized Indian Tribe in the state of Alabama, operating as a sovereign nation with its own system of government and bylaws. The Tribe operates a variety of economic enterprises which employ thousands. For more information, visit: www.pci-nsn.gov. □





Fishing in Aruba is on fire



By Joris Zantvoort

ORANJESTAD — With summer definitely behind us, you'd think that it's time to call it a season and get those sweaters ready. Well, think again! October might mean slow fishing in some places, but definitely not in Aruba. Here, temperatures "cool down" to 85°, making the country a perfect getaway for you summer-yearning folk. More importantly, fishing in Aruba is on fire in October!

As the water temperatures start to drop, large, pelagic fish draw nearer to the island. What does this mean for you? You can catch some of the most coveted Caribbean big game, all within a few hours off the coast. Billfish like White and Blue Marlin enter peak season, accompanied by the fast-swimming Sailfish. The seas can get choppy, so remember to take Dramamine ahead of your outing. If you prefer fishing in calmer waters, however, Aruba will be more than happy to oblige. October

means that critters like Permit and Bonefish are finally starting to appear, so if you're looking to test your skills, this is the place to be. Unless you're a fly fishing expert, you'll probably need an experienced guide to show you the ropes for this type of angling.

If you don't feel like going out too far offshore, but would still like to catch something big, the signature Caribbean specialties are the perfect choice. Hit the reefs and catch anything from Mahi Mahi and Wahoo, to Great Barracuda and King Mackerel.

Just a few days ago, Captain Marcelino took a family out on a charter, and boy did they have fun. They started the trip by landing a Wahoo, quickly followed by a couple of Cudas. To top it off, they got into a true Mahi bonanza, with each of the three family members catching one at the same time. Oh, and they caught all of them on just a half day outing!



Captain Dennis Robles aboard the stunning Lady Sarah has recently had great success catching Mahi. The other day, he got two blue beauties. The best part about

catching Mahi in Aruba is that you can bring it to a local restaurant for a delicious dinner to round off the day. □

Captain of the Month

Captain Dennis has fished around the globe in various major tournaments, with substantial wins under his belt. He's a fisherman in the most genuine sense of the word - up and down on different waters and coasts. He is used to landing big fish, first as his sport, now as his job.

The Captain's pride and joy is, of course, the beautiful boat, Lady Sarah. This 40-footer comes with all the amenities you'll need on an offshore trip, including a fish finder, fighting chair, and air-conditioning. On a trip with Dennis, you'll have all the necessary gear, as well as live bait and drinks. There will be a first mate on board to assist you with your gear and technique. You can bring your kids along, too, as long as they are older than 6.

Once you're back ashore, you'll split the catch with the crew, and they will fillet and clean it for you so you can have that nice dinner afterwards.

October in Aruba has all the ingredients for a memorable fishing adventure. All you need to do is pick a date and start packing!

For more information: <https://fishingbooker.com/destinations/country/aw>

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to the Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

We received a great picture from **Chares Frank** from Newport News, Virginia. He wrote:

"Aruba to me is..... The place to get away from it all!"



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The Lazy Lizard | The Market

Shalom Body & Soul Spa

The Collectables

'Trick or Treat' at Renaissance Marketplace: Joy of Halloween for our children

ORANJESTAD — Halloween is knocking on the door this Sunday and Renaissance Marketplace wants to make sure the children do not miss out on the fun. The celebration is the perfect time to express your creativity and the mall will organize a very 'spooky' festivity between 5 and 8PM. The decoration will include a grave yard, scary sounds and smoke effects. You may also be surprised by walking dead alias zombies.



There is all opportunity to take a picture with your fav zombie and of course what would a Halloween celebration be without the traditional 'trick or treat'? All parents are invited to bring their children on Sunday, October 27th to pick up the 'treat' This is the opportunity for our visitors to have their children mingle with our local little ones. Between 5 and 8 p.m. the fun is on.

Win a price

Renaissance Marketplace is offering spe-

cial games for the children where they can win nice prizes for example for the Best Costume. There will also be face painting, a magic show and a dance show. The mall is completely in Halloween zone with the zombies, ghosts and much more. Join in on the Horror Fest and enjoy the excitement while at the same time you can shop around and have a bite. Don't miss it, this is too scary to let go!

For more information: Facebook Renaissance Marketplace. ☐



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Holiday Inn Resort Aruba celebrates: 50 shades of happiness

PALM BEACH — October 22 in 1969 was exactly 50 years ago that the Holiday Inn Resort rooted in Aruba. It is the only resort on the island that kept its original brand for all those years. The resort threw a big feast for their guests and outside invites including live music, food buffets, bars, fireworks and a carnival show. Happiness, fun, appreciation and bonding were the key words that apply to the celebration. It felt like it was each guest's private anniversary.

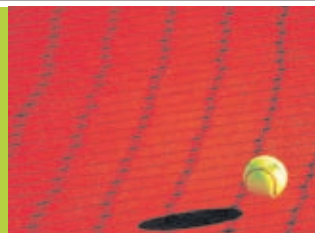
The Holiday Inn Resort's Oceanside terrace was packed Tuesday night and the resort is thankful with the joyful, happy, appreciative guests. The live music band NBO got the public dancing their heart out and the tremendous food buffets and bars tickled everyone's taste buds.

Big surprise was the impressive fireworks above the ocean followed by a real Aruban carnival parade. For sure the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba celebrated with a bang! □



Holiday Inn Resort Aruba-Beach Resort & Casino
J. E. Irausquin Boulevard #230, Palm Beach
Oranjestad, Aruba
Telephone: +297 586 3600

SPORTS



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (10) celebrates after scoring a rushing touchdown against the Los Angeles Rams during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

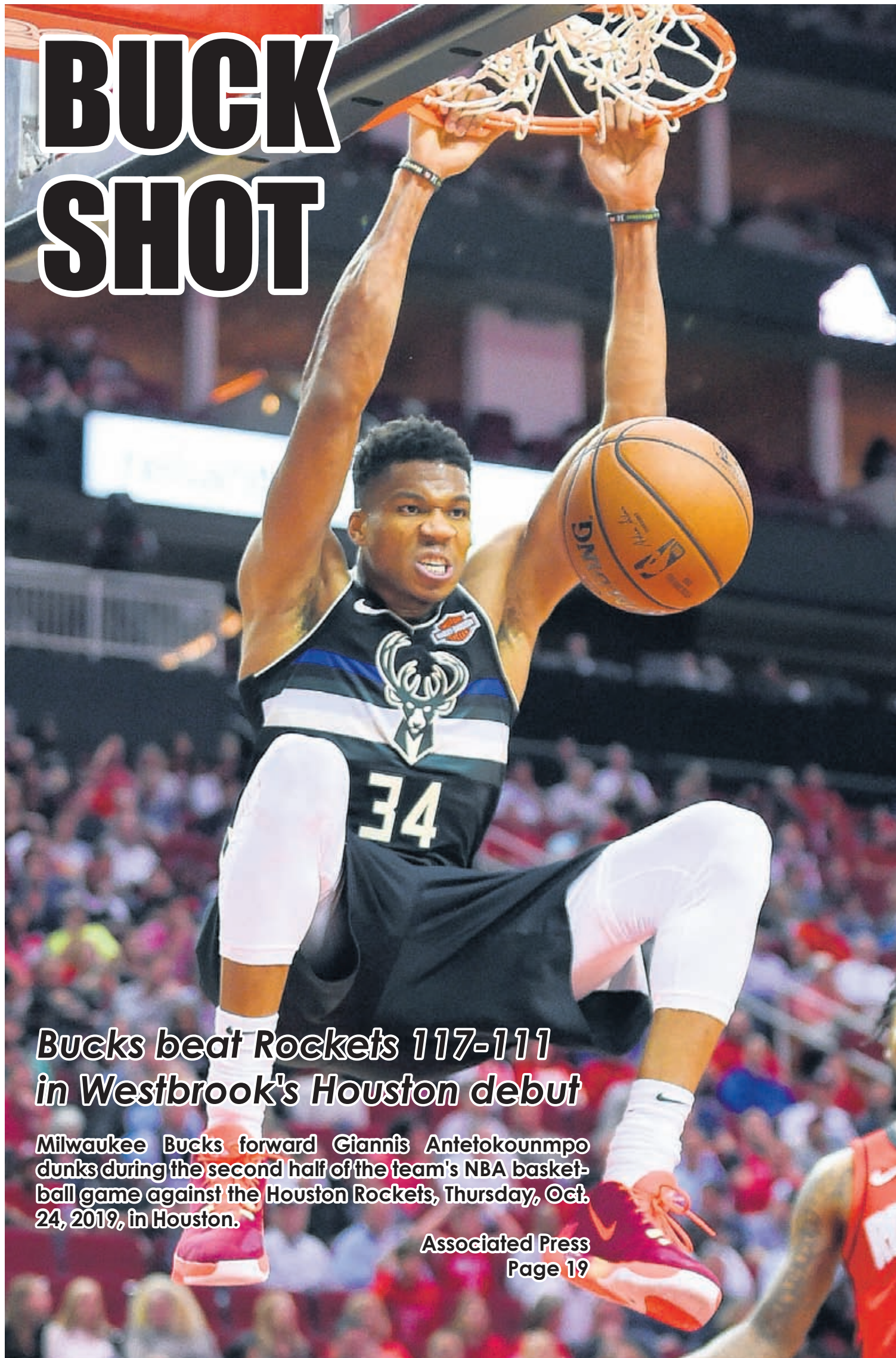
49ers' aim for 7-0 start, with streaking Panthers in way

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP Pro Football Writer

Joe Montana was throwing passes to Jerry Rice the last time the San Francisco 49ers were 7-0 to start a season. That was way back in 1990, and this year's group of Niners has a chance to match that Bay Area powerhouse when they take on the streaking Carolina Panthers on Sunday in one of the meaty matchups of Week 8. "You get better or you get worse, you don't stay the same," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "As this year goes, it gets harder and harder. And, we've got to make sure as it gets harder, we have to get better if we want to meet our own expectations." They think they did exactly that earlier this week by acquiring speedy wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders from Denver along with a fifth-round draft pick for 2020 third- and fourth-round picks.

Continued on Page 21

BUCK SHOT



Bucks beat Rockets 117-111 in Westbrook's Houston debut

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo dunks during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press
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No spectators allowed for 2nd round of Zozo Championship

By JIM ARMSTRONG
AP Sports Writer

INZAI CITY, Japan (AP) — Organizers of the PGA Tour's first tournament in Japan have taken the unusual step of closing the course to spectators for Saturday's second round and extending the tournament until Monday because of torrential rainfall and flooding in the area.

Rain washed out the second round of the Zozo Championship on Friday. Organizers originally rescheduled the second round for Saturday with tee times running from 6:30-8:30 a.m.

Torrential rain caused flooding and mudslides Friday in towns east of Tokyo, leaving one dead and two missing and expanding damage in areas still recovering from recent typhoons.

More than six inches of rain was recorded at the Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club on Friday.

"Due to safety concerns, PGA Tour officials have announced the course will unfortunately be closed to all spectators and ticket holders on Saturday as the well-being of our fans is paramount," the PGA Tour said in a statement.

The second round is now scheduled to run between 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday.

PGA Tour officials have determined the event will conclude on Monday in order to complete 72 holes. As of now, Sunday's play will be open to spectators who hold Sunday tickets.

Tiger Woods was tied with Gary Woodland after both players shot 64 in the opening round on Thursday.

Woods is making his first start in his 23rd season on the PGA Tour, needing one victory to reach 82 wins and tie the career record held by Sam Snead.

The Zozo tournament is part of three tournaments that make up the PGA Tour's Asia Swing, including the CJ Cup in South Korea won last week by Justin Thomas and the HSBC Champions in Shanghai next week. □

Tsitsipas wins at Swiss Indoors to set up SF against Federer

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — With Roger Federer getting an unexpected day off Friday, his next opponent Stefanos Tsitsipas had to work hard to advance to the Swiss Indoors semifinals. Third-seeded Tsitsipas rallied to beat Filip Krajinovic 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the quarter-



Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas looks on during his second round match against Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis at the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament in Basel, Switzerland, on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019.

Associated Press



Danielle Kang of the United States watches her shot on the first hole during the first round of the LPGA tournament at LPGA International Busan in Busan, South Korea, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

Danielle Kang takes 1-stroke lead into 3rd round in Busan

BUSAN, South Korea (AP)

— Danielle Kang shot a second consecutive 5-under 67 on Friday for a one-stroke lead at the Buick Ladies Championship, putting her in a strong position to win her second tournament in two weeks on the LPGA Tour.

The American player, who won last week in Shanghai, had seven birdies and two bogeys for a 10-under 134 total on the LPGA International Busan course.

Hee Won Na (67) birdied two of her final three holes and was tied for second place with Seung Yeon Lee (68). Four players were tied for fourth, including No. 1-ranked Jin Young Ko (69) and first-round leader Minjee Lee (70). They were two strokes behind.

"I'm hitting it well. Hitting it straight. Chipping well. Putting well," said Kang, who

grew up in California but spent several years living in Busan as a child because of her father's job. "So honestly, I'm really not paying attention to other people. I think that's one of the things that I've gotten better at. I have not looked at the leaderboard once."

Nelly Korda shot 70 and was at 5 under.

Kristen Gillman aced the par-3 13th hole and will have to make arrangements to collect her BMW car. That was the prize for a hole-in-one on the 13th, on her way to a 71 and a 3-under 141 total. The LPGA Tour said it was the American's first hole-in-one in competition. She hit a 4-hybrid from 180 yards. Off the tee, Gillman and caddie John Killeen thought the ball got caught in the wind. But when she heard the crowd reaction, she knew the ball

had gone in the hole. "It was nice to finally have my first hole-in-one because it's kind of been a running joke between me and my friends that I've holed out a lot of shots on par 4s and par 5s but never on a par 3," Gillman said.

Gillman won a BMW 7 Series sedan, an upgrade from the Toyota Camry she currently drives around Austin, Texas.

"I didn't even look at the car because I didn't even know I made a hole-in-one," Gillman said.

Brooke Henderson shot 68 and was also at 3 under, while Charley Hull (69) was 2 under. There is no cut in the limited-field event of 84 players.

It's the second stop on the LPGA Tour's Asian swing with tournaments in Taiwan and Japan scheduled over the next two weeks. □

finals, clinching when the 46th-ranked Serbian sent a service return long.

Tsitsipas was the main attraction Friday at Federer's home town tournament after an all-Swiss quarter-final became a walkover for Federer due to Stan Wawrinka withdrawing with

a back injury.

Top-seeded Federer is seeking a 10th career title at Basel.

The other semifinal will pair unseeded Reilly Opelka and wild-card entry Alex de Minaur.

Big-serving Opelka sent down 31 aces in beating

fourth-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. The 37th-ranked American hit five of these aces consecutively to clinch the first set after trailing 0-40 with a 5-3 lead.

The 20-year-old de Minaur advanced past Jan-Lennard Struff 6-4, 7-6 (4). □



Phoenix Suns center Deandre Ayton (22) tries to drive past Denver Nuggets forward Torrey Craig during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game, Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Suns center Deandre Ayton suspended for 25 games by NBA

By DAVID BRANDT
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns plans for a big turnaround season hit an unexpected snag.

Center Deandre Ayton was suspended 25 games without pay by the NBA on Thursday night for violating the terms of the NBA/NBPA Anti-Drug Program by testing positive for a diuretic. The first overall pick last year out of Arizona, Ayton averaged 16.3 points and 10.3 rebounds as a rookie and was hoping to have a jump in production in his second season.

He had 18 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks Wednesday night in the Suns' season-opening home victory over Sacramento. Ayton was especially proud of the blocks, telling media after the game that new coach Monty Williams had put a huge emphasis on defense and rim protection.

But the good vibes from that victory have quickly evaporated. "On behalf of the Phoenix Suns organization, Monty Williams and I are disappointed in the actions by Deandre Ayton that led to his testing positive for a banned diuretic and subsequent suspension by the NBA. This does not uphold the standards and principles we have set for the team," Suns general manager James Jones said in a statement released by the team. "Deandre has

expressed his deepest remorse. While he is suspended we remain committed to his growth and development on and off the court. His actions are not taken lightly, and we are committed to ensuring that Deandre understands the profound impact it has had on the team, organization, and Suns community."

Ayton was upbeat after Wednesday's win, giving no indication that he was about to miss nearly a third of the season. Phoenix had a 19-63 record last season but hoped for a fast rebuild with a roster that was built around Ayton and high-scoring guard Devin Booker. The team hired Williams as coach, signed free-agent point guard Ricky Rubio and re-signed talented forward Kelly Oubre Jr. The Suns also added rookies Cameron Johnson and Ty Jerome and depth in the frontcourt with veterans Aron Baynes, Dario Saric and Frank Kaminsky III. Now they'll be without Ayton until mid-December unless the suspension is reduced through the arbitration process.

"I want to apologize to my family, the entire Suns organization, my teammates, partners, our fans and the Phoenix community," Ayton said in a statement. "This was an unintentional mistake and unfortunately I put something in my body that I was completely unaware of." □



Milwaukee Bucks center Brook Lopez (11) fouls Houston Rockets center Clint Capela during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press

Bucks beat Rockets, spoiling Westbrook-Harden reunion

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 points and had a triple-double before fouling out and his supporting cast held on to lead the Milwaukee Bucks to a 117-111 victory over the Houston Rockets on Thursday night in a star-studded opener featuring the last three MVPs. Antetokounmpo, the MVP last season, fouled out with about five minutes remaining. He had 13 rebounds and 11 assists.

Brook Lopez made two free throws with about a minute left before a layup by Russell Westbrook. But Lopez made a fadeaway shot to leave Milwaukee up 115-109 with 39 seconds remaining.

James Harden added a pair of free throws before Ersan Ilyasova made a jump shot with about 15 seconds to go that sent many fans heading to the exits.

Some had wondered what would happen with the pairing of the two ball-dominant guards in Harden and Westbrook after the 2017

MVP was traded from Oklahoma City for Chris Paul this summer. In their first game together with the Rockets both filled up the stat sheet, but they were unable to come away with a win after leading for much of the game.

Westbrook had 24 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists, Harden, the 2018 MVP, added 19 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds. He was 2 of 13 from the field, 1 of 8 on 3s and made 14 free throws without a miss.

CLIPPERS 141, WARRIORS 122

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Kawhi Leonard spoiled the Warriors' first game at Chase Center just as he did their farewell at Oracle Arena four months ago, scoring 21 points in three quarters to lead Los Angeles to the win at Golden State's snazzy new arena. Reigning NBA Finals MVP Leonard shot 9 for 17 and also dished out nine assists in his second game with L.A.

Stephen Curry scored 23 points and D'Angelo Russell added 20 in his Golden

State debut, but the Warriors got beat up the way they used to do it against the entire NBA, even giving up a 46-point third quarter. Patrick Patterson scored 20 points and Ivica Zubac had 16 points, 10 rebounds and two blocked shots for Los Angeles.

Curry, who at 31 is the oldest Warriors player, was 2 of 11 on 3s as Golden State went 15 for 42 from deep.

HAWKS 117, PISTONS 100

DETROIT (AP) — Trae Young had 38 points and nine assists and Atlanta opened the season with a victory over Detroit.

John Collins added 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Jabari Parker had 18 points. Vince Carter checked in for Atlanta with 6:52 left in the first quarter, becoming the first player to see action in 22 NBA seasons.

Derrick Rose led Detroit with 27 points, and Andre Drummond had 21 points and 12 rebounds. On Wednesday night in Indiana, Drummond had 32 points and 23 rebounds in Detroit's season-opening victory. □



Cook, Vikings wear down Redskins 19-9 for 4th straight win

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Near the end of this methodical victory for the Minnesota Vikings, the crowd directed a loud cheer toward a player on the visiting team. When Adrian Peterson appeared on the giant video screens during the 2-minute warning with an announcement of his latest climb up the NFL's all-time rushing list, the Washington Redskins running back took off his helmet, kissed two of his fingers and waved them to the fans who rooted for him in purple not that long ago.

The star of the show, though, was Peterson's successor. Dalvin Cook gave the Vikings yet another stellar performance.

Cook had 171 total yards and the game's only touchdown, helping Kirk Cousins beat his old team on the first try and carrying the Vikings to a 19-9 victory over the Redskins on Thursday night.

"It just shows how we can pull a win out. We've got a team that can go out and keep battling and keep fighting," Cook said. "That shows you the toughness that's in this group."

Cook, the NFL leader in yards from scrimmage, rushed 23 times for 98 yards and caught five passes for 73 yards for the Vikings (6-2) in their fourth straight win. Cousins went 23 for 26 for 285 yards without a turnover against the Redskins (1-7), who drafted him in 2012 and made him the full-time starter in 2015 before he became a free agent and signed with the Vikings in 2018.

"We talked during the week. You always have a little extra motivation when you're playing your old team. You're always trying



Minnesota Vikings running back Dalvin Cook (33) scores on a 4-yard touchdown run in front of Washington Redskins cornerback Fabian Moreau (31) during the first half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019, in Minneapolis.

to prove that they were wrong for letting you go or whatever the reason was, so I thought he handled it really well," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "He's playing outstanding right now."

Nobody on the Redskins lately warrants that assessment.

Case Keenum, the quarterback Cousins replaced, had his return to Minnesota spoiled by a concussion that kept him out of the second half and thrust rookie Dwayne Haskins back into action.

Two plays after Daron Payne and Landon Collins stuffed Cousins for no gain on a fourth-and-1 quarterback sneak at the Minnesota 34, Haskins overthrew Terry McLaurin, and Anthony Harris intercepted.

Keenum's last time in the stadium was nearly two years ago, when his last-play touchdown pass to Stefon Diggs gave the Vikings a victory over New Orleans in a divisional round playoff game, but there was little reason to

make this game a memory. Keenum went 12 for 16 for 130 yards.

Diggs caught all seven passes that came his way from Cousins, racking up 143 yards in his own tribute of sorts to the "Minneapolis Miracle." This game was for the guys in the ground game, though.

Alexander Mattison added 61 yards on 13 rushes, and Minnesota more than doubled Washington's total yardage, 434-216.

Peterson had 14 carries for 76 yards and in the process moved up to sixth place on the NFL's career rushing list with 13,701 yards by passing Jerome Bettis and LaDainian Tomlinson.

"It was bittersweet because you come here to win a game," said Peterson, who played for the Vikings for 10 seasons from 2007-16. "Just coming back and seeing the love that they still have for me and they showed, it felt good."

It was definitely a great home welcome.

They welcomed me with open arms and just showed

the love that they have and have for over a decade. So, it was a special moment. I had to hold tears back, to be honest with you."

Cook hugged Peterson on the field after the game.

"He was one of the guys that I watched," Cook said. "He's a special talent."

The same goes for Cook, who was drafted in the second round in 2017.

"If we keep him healthy, I hope one day he is in the Hall of Fame just because he's a talented guy," Diggs said. "He's a blessing."

CHEF'S SPECIAL

The screen pass to Cook was the favored weapon, highlighted by a zigzagging 31-yard gain late in the second quarter that set up his 4-yard run for a score with 11 seconds left on third down.

Offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski made a bold inside zone call for Cook, who rewarded the confidence by powering his way through safety Troy Apke and cornerback Fabian Moreau at the goal line.

The Vikings ran a third-and-15 draw play to Cook from the 25 early in the fourth quarter before settling Dan Bailey's fourth field goal of the night, another conservative decision that even drew some boos from a crowd that was probably a bit bored at that point by a game bogged down by penalties and ball-control play.

"I think good teams can win a variety of ways," Cousins said. "I think we've been doing that the last few weeks."

STEFON NEEDS STICK-UM

Diggs went without a fumble over each of the last three seasons, and the Vikings recovered the two he had as a rookie in 2015. This year, he has already fumbled four times, the most in the league among non-quarterbacks, and the Vikings have lost three of them.

Diggs also dropped what would have been a touchdown pass last week at Detroit, a catchable ball that slipped through his hands on third down in the fourth quarter. □

Associated Press

49ers' aim for 7-0 start, with streaking Panthers in way

Continued from Page 17

Sanders gives Jimmy Garoppolo an experienced veteran to throw to, and not having a proven No. 1 wide receiver was perhaps the biggest hole on the 49ers' roster through the early stretch of the season.

"We feel he's a guy who can come in and help us a lot this year and we'll see where it goes for him after that," Shanahan said.

The 49ers are focused on right now, and they'll face a Panthers team that has won four in a row and is in search of its first five-game winning streak since winning 18 straight regular-season games in 2014-15.

And, they're doing it without star quarterback Cam Newton. Instead, Kyle Allen has taken control and done nothing but win. Including a victory last season as a rookie, Allen is the first quarterback in the Super Bowl era to win his first five starts without throwing an interception.

"The more he plays, the more comfortable he gets and the more his confidence builds," Panthers coach Ron Rivera said.

But, Allen will certainly face a tough test going up against the 49ers' No. 2 overall defense — which also ranks No. 1 in the NFL against the pass.

"This is a very good football team we're going to be playing against," Rivera said. "They're 6-0 for a reason. You put the tape on, you see a lot of good things that they do."

Week 8 began Thursday night with Minnesota's 19-9 home victory over Washington.

Dalvin Cook had 171 total yards and the game's only touchdown, helping Kirk Cousins beat his old team on the first try.

Cook rushed 23 times for 98 yards and caught five passes for 73 yards for the Vikings (6-2) in their fourth straight victory.

Cousins went 23 for 26 for 285 yards without a turnover against the Redskins (1-7), who drafted him in 2012 and made him the full-



Carolina Panthers quarterback Kyle Allen (7) passes against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019, at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London.

Associated Press

time starter in 2015. Case Keenum, the quarterback Cousins replaced, had his return to Minnesota spoiled by a concussion that kept him out of the second half. Baltimore (5-2) and Dallas (4-3) are both off this week.

ARIZONA (3-3-1) at NEW ORLEANS (6-1)

It could mark the return of Drew Brees, who has said "the plan" is for him to be back this week for the Saints after missing five weeks with a thumb injury. Teddy Bridgewater certainly did a fine job filling in, going 5-0 in Brees' place. The defense has also been a big reason the Saints have continued to march on, holding four straight opponents to 257 or fewer yards. They'll take on the Cardinals and dynamic rookie Kyler Murray, who ranks second among quarterbacks with 266 yards rushing. Chase Edmonds is also coming off the first 100-yard rushing game of his career, going for 126 yards and three touchdown runs last week against the Giants.

CLEVELAND (2-4) at NEW ENGLAND (7-0)

Tom Brady and the Patriots keep rolling, but the Browns aren't fazed by that. At all. Just ask wide receiver Jarvis Landry, who declared: "Well, we're going to win. We're going to win. I think it's just that simple. We get guys back healthy again and we're going to win."

Well, Baker Mayfield is going to have to play a lot better than he did during a three-interception performance in a loss to Seattle.

He leads the league with 11 picks, and will face a Patriots defense that forced the Jets' Sam Darnold to turn the ball over five times in New England's 33-0 rout last Monday night.

Oh, and by the way, Bill Belichick would earn his 300th career victory, including the postseason, with a win over the Browns.

GREEN BAY (6-1) at KANSAS CITY (5-2)

This Sunday night matchup lost some of its luster with Patrick Mahomes sidelined with a dislocated kneecap. So, it'll be veteran backup Matt Moore under center for the Chiefs this week, taking on Aaron Rodgers and the Packers. Moore will make his first start since Nov. 26, 2017, for Miami against New England.

Meanwhile, Rodgers had a perfect passer rating of 158.3 last week in Green Bay's win over Oakland, going 25 of 31 for 429 yards and five TDs with no interceptions.

SEATTLE (5-2) at ATLANTA (1-6)

For all the talk of the "12th Man" in Seattle giving the Seahawks a huge edge at home, they've been even better on the road so far this season.

Russell Wilson and this group of Seahawks are trying to improve to 4-0 away from home for just the second time in franchise history, and first since 1980.

Seattle will face a Falcons team that might not have quarterback Matt Ryan because of a sprained right ankle. If Ryan's streak of

154 consecutive regular-season starts is snapped, it'll be Matt Schaub starting for Atlanta. His last start came in 2015 for Baltimore.

PHILADELPHIA (3-4) at BUFFALO (5-1)

The surprising Bills haven't started 6-1 or better since they opened the 1993 season 7-1. They've gotten to this spot in large part because of their comeback ability, with Josh Allen and Co. going 4-1 when tied or trailing in the fourth quarter. The Eagles are coming off their biggest game of the season so far, an embarrassing 37-10 loss to the Dallas Cowboys in front of a prime-time audience last Sunday night. Philadelphia will be looking for a better start this week after losing fumbles on its first two possessions, quickly leading to a 14-0 deficit.

OAKLAND (3-3) at HOUSTON (4-3)

When Jon Gruden's guys lose this season, they really lose. The Raiders have dropped three of their first six games by at least 18 points, including last week's 42-24 defeat vs. Green Bay, marking the third time in franchise history they have accomplished that dubious feat. The Texans are also trying to rebound after losing to the Colts 30-23 last week. Deshaun Watson had solid numbers — 308 yards passing, 32 yards rushing — last week, but has thrown four interceptions in his past two games after only one in Houston's first five.

CINCINNATI (0-7) vs LOS ANGELES RAMS (4-3)

The winless Bengals hope they can turn their fortunes around across the pond at Wembley Stadium.

It's Cincinnati's worst start since it opened 0-8 in 2008 under Marvin Lewis, and the seventh time overall the Bengals are 0-7.

The Rams snapped their three-game skid with a blowout win at Atlanta last weekend, and spent the week practicing at Georgia Tech to try to minimize the effects of going all the way from LA to London. Jared Goff hasn't thrown an interception in his past two games, and also wasn't

sacked last week.

DENVER (2-5) at INDIANAPOLIS (4-2)

The Colts' Jacoby Brissett was sacked five times in the first two weeks, but has gone down only twice in the last four games.

Next up is Denver's Von Miller, who has sacked 48 quarterbacks during career — but Brissett isn't on the list. Yet. The Broncos' defense has also been stingy in the red zone lately, not allowing a touchdown on opponents' last 10 trips.

TAMPA BAY (2-4) at TENNESSEE (3-4)

Jameis Winston is coming off the second 400-yard passing performance of his career with the Buccaneers, but also threw five interceptions and lost a fumble during Tampa Bay's 11-point loss to Carolina in London two weeks ago.

The last time these teams squared off, it marked first time in NFL history that the top two picks in the draft — Winston and the Titans' Marcus Mariota — met as rookies in Week 1 in 2015. This time around, Mariota is on the bench in favor of Ryan Tannehill, who threw for 312 yards and two touchdowns in a win over the Los Angeles Chargers.

Tennessee tied a franchise record by not allowing more than 20 points in any game through its first seven games.

NEW YORK GIANTS (2-5) at DETROIT (2-3-1)

Both teams enter this matchup struggling while on three-game losing streaks.

Giants rookie quarterback Daniel Jones has thrown one touchdown pass in each of his last four games, but also has seven interceptions during that span. Golden Tate, playing his fourth game for New York, will face his former team after spending 4 1/2 seasons with the Lions.

The Giants' secondary could have its hands full after Detroit wide receiver Marvin Jones had four touchdown catches last week, joining Jerry Rice and Sterling Sharpe as the only players in NFL history with two such games. □

Draisaitl, McDavid help Oilers outlast Capitals



Washington Capitals goalie Braden Holtby (70) is scored on by Edmonton Oilers' Leon Draisaitl (29) during the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019, in Edmonton, Alberta.

By The Associated Press
EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Leon Draisaitl scored his second goal of the game in overtime and the Edmonton Oilers overcame a two-goal deficit to beat the Washington Capitals 4-3 on Thursday night. The Oilers got a 3-on-1 in extra time and Connor McDavid set up Draisaitl for the goal 1:18 in, giving the Oilers a 5-0 record at home. Draisaitl added an assist in regulation. And McDavid had a goal and two assists. Darnell Nurse also scored to help the Oilers (8-2-1) snap a two-game losing skid. Alex Ovechkin had a pair of goals and Jakub Vrana also scored for the Capitals (7-2-3). They had won four in a row.

SHARKS 4, CANADIENS 2
MONTREAL (AP) — Evander Kane scored two power-play goals and an Jose beat Montreal to snap a two-game losing streak. Kevin Labanc and Melker

Karlsson also scored for the Sharks, Tomas Hertl had three assists, and Aaron Dell made 34 saves. The Sharks have won nine straight games against Montreal dating to March 21, 2015. Nick Cousins and Joel Armia scored for the Canadiens.

FLAMES 6, PANTHERS 5, SO
CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Matthew Tkachuk scored twice in regulation and again in the shootout in Calgary's victory over Florida. Sean Monahan also scored in the shootout for Calgary, which converted both tie-breaking attempts on Sergei Bobrovsky. David Rittich thwarted Jonathan Huberdeau and Aleksander Barkov to secure the victory. Austin Czarnik, Mark Giordano and Sam Bennett scored in regulation for Calgary. Huberdeau, MacKenzie Weegar, Josh Brown, Evgenii Dadonov and Mark Py-

syk scored for Florida.

BLUE JACKETS 4, HURRICANES 3, OT
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Cam Atkinson scored 3:28 into overtime to lift Columbus past Carolina. Atkinson tapped in a pass from Pierre-Luc Dubois to give the Blue Jackets a second straight victory in a fourth consecutive overtime game. Ryan Murray, Alexander Texier and Sonny Milano also scored, and Joonas Korpi stopped 21 shots. Dougie Hamilton, Ryan Dzingel and Sebastian Aho scored for Carolina, and Petr Mrazek made 27 saves.

ISLANDERS 4, COYOTES 2

Associated Press
UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Anders Lee scored the winner and Semyon Varlamov made 21 saves to help New York beat Arizona for its fifth straight victory. Derick Brassard, Josh Bailey and Scott Mayfield also scored for New York. Michael Grabner and Conor Garland scored for Arizona. The Coyotes had won four in a row.

FLYERS 4, BLACKHAWKS 1
CHICAGO (AP) — Kevin Hayes scored after he lost a goal because of an offside challenge in Philadelphia's victory over Chicago. Claude Giroux, James van Riemsdyk and Oskar Lind-

blom also scored for Philadelphia, which beat Chicago 4-3 in Prague in the season opener on Oct. 4. Brian Elliott made 23 saves in his second straight start. Brandon Saad scored for Chicago.

RANGERS 6, SABRES 2
NEW YORK (AP) — Ryan Strome scored his first two goals this season, Henrik Lundqvist made 31 saves and New York beat Buffalo to snap a five-game losing streak. Artemi Panarin, Brett Howden, Tony DeAngelo and Chris Kreider also scored for New York.

Marco Scandella and Vladimir Sobotka scored for Buffalo.

PREDATORS 4, WILD 0
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Pekka Rinne made 26 saves, Colton Sissons had a goal and an assist and Nashville beat Minnesota. Rinne improved to 6-0-1 with his first shutout of the season and 56th overall. Miikka Salomaki, Calle Jarnkrok and Craig Smith also scored for Nashville.

BLUES 5, KINGS 2
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Alex Pietrangolo and Robert Thomas scored in a two-minute span of the second period in St. Louis' victory over Los Angeles. Brayden Schenn scored twice, including an empty-netter, Vince Dunn also scored, and Jordan Binnington made 33 saves. Jeff Carter and Alex Iafallo scored for the Kings.

STARS 2, DUCKS 1
DALLAS (AP) — Denis Gurianov ended a personal scoring drought with two first-period goals, and Ben Bishop made 29 saves to help Dallas beat Anaheim. Gurianov hadn't scored in 26 games since his first NHL goal on Nov. 18, 2018. Max Comtois scored for Anaheim. □





In this Oct. 1, 2015, file photo, FC Kansas City head coach Vlatko Andonovski watches from the sideline before the NWSL soccer championship match in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

AP Source: Andonovski to be named coach of U.S. women's team

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

U.S. Soccer is expected to name Vlatko Andonovski as the new head coach of the women's national team. A person with knowledge of the deal said Andonovski, the current coach of the Reign FC in the National Women's Soccer League, is expected to sign a contract with U.S. Soccer in the coming days. The person spoke Friday to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the appointment had not been formally announced.

U.S. Soccer announced a news conference to name the new coach on Monday in New York City. Andonovski, 43, was considered the front-runner for the job after Utah Royals coach Laura Harvey and North Carolina coach Paul Riley removed their names from consideration. Andonovski replaces Jill Ellis, who led the U.S. team to back-to-back World Cup titles during her tenure as coach.

Andonovski has been a head coach in the NWSL for the past seven seasons. He was coach of now-defunct FC Kansas City from the league's inception in 2013 until the club folded in 2017. He won two league titles with the team.

Andonovski was named head coach of the Reign in late 2017 when Harvey went to Utah. The Reign weathered a number of

injuries this season and the absences of several players during the World Cup to make the playoffs for the second straight season. The Reign fell 4-1 to the North Carolina Courage last Sunday in the league semifinals. This season's championship match between the Courage and the Chicago Red Stars is set for Sunday in Cary, North Carolina.

Andonovski, a native of Skopje, Macedonia, played for several teams in Europe before embarking on a professional indoor soccer career in the United States.

Among his first duties with the U.S. team will be preparing it for qualification for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. The United States has two more exhibition matches set for this year, against Sweden in Columbus, Ohio, on Nov. 7 and against Costa Rica in Jacksonville, Florida, on Nov. 10. Ellis was named coach of the team in 2014 and led the U.S. to eight overall tournament titles, including victories at the World Cup in 2015 and earlier this year. Over the course of her tenure, the United States lost just seven matches.

Ellis announced her decision to step down just a little more than three weeks after the United States beat the Netherlands in Lyon, France, for the World Cup title. It was the team's fourth overall championship in soccer's premier tournament. □

Mikaela Shiffrin voted skier of the year by journalists



In this Feb. 22, 2018 file photo silver medalist in the women's combined Mikaela Shiffrin, of the United States, celebrates during the medals ceremony at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Associated Press

SOELDEN, Austria (AP) — Three-time overall World Cup champion Mikaela Shiffrin has been voted skier of the year for 2019, beating last year's winner Marcel Hirscher in the vote by the international association of ski journalists.

Shiffrin, who also won the award in 2017, set an all-time best mark by winning 17 World Cup races.

The American added gold medals in slalom and super-G, and bronze in GS at the world championships in Sweden in February.

"It feels a little bit wrong, actually, but it's also an incredible honor," Shiffrin said Friday after receiving the Skieur d'Or-Serge Lang Trophy, named after the founder of Alpine skiing's World Cup in the

1960s. "It's astounding to me that it's not Marcel this year, because he's had such an incredible career. I certainly would have voted for him."

AJIS President Patrick Lang praised Shiffrin for being "a very enjoyable interview partner for ski reporters" and for "doing a great job to promote our sport around the globe." Lang said Shiffrin beat Hirscher, who retired after winning his record-extending eighth straight overall championship, "by only a few votes."

Hirscher and Swiss great Pirmin Zurbriggen received the award four times each. Earlier American winners include Lindsey Vonn in 2009 and Bode Miller in 2005.

The new World Cup season starts with a women's giant slalom on the Rettenbach glacier on Saturday, followed by the men's race the next day. □

Ski federation admits 'too many races' on World Cup calendar

By ERIC WILLEMSSEN
Associated Press

SOELDEN, Austria (AP) — The upcoming Alpine skiing World Cup season includes "too many races," the International Ski Federation has conceded amid criticism from racers and coaches. Without Olympic Games or world championships in February, the sport's top-level circuit runs non-stop from October through March with 44 men's events at 22 different venues, and 41 women's events at 21 venues.

That's an increase of six races for both competitions compared to last season and has led to concerns that the tight schedule will not leave enough time for skiers to rest between events.

"I know it's not easy for the athletes and also for some organizers. We are now at a certain limit, there is no question," FIS President Gian Franco Kasper said Fri-

day, a day before the season starts with a women's giant slalom on the Rettenbach glacier, followed by a men's race on Sunday.

"We have too many races. But FIS is not here to prevent races but to organize races," said Kasper, adding that FIS could improve on scheduling by planning the calendars three years ahead.

While there is a four-week break until the next event — slalom races in Finland on Nov. 23-24 — the circuit will take up full speed afterward, with stops in Canada, the United States, China and Japan adding to its European core.

The city events for top-16 racers have been removed from the schedule, but FIS added more parallel slaloms and giant slaloms to regular World Cup venues. Also, the Alpine combined seemed written off in recent years but the number of races has now been

raised to seven in total for men and women, from three last season.

However, no racer is planning to compete in all 44 or 41 events this season.

More skiers have been specializing in one or two disciplines in recent years, while the few all-rounders left have skipped a few events in order to create sufficient rest days in their schedules. Like Mikaela Shiffrin, who could potentially start in all events but has been taking midseason breaks each year.

"For sure I am going to continue this process of picking which races make sense and what's going to work," the three-time overall champion told The Associated Press.

Last season, for instance, she skipped races in Rosa Khutor to avoid a grueling journey from Switzerland to Russia and back to the Czech Republic within 10 days. □

Facebook launches a news section - and will pay publishers

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and TALI ARBEL

AP Technology Writers

Over the course of its 15 year history, Facebook has variously ignored news organizations while eating their advertising revenue, courted them for video projects it subsequently abandoned, and then largely cut their stories out of its newsfeeds.

Now it plans to pay them for news headlines — reportedly millions of dollars in some cases.

Enter the "News Tab," a new section in the Facebook mobile app that will display headlines — and nothing else — from the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, BuzzFeed News, Business Insider, NBC, USA Today and the Los Angeles Times, among others. Local stories from several of the largest U.S. cities will also make the grade; headlines from smaller towns are on their way, Facebook says. Tapping on those headlines will take you directly to publisher websites or apps, if you have any installed. Which is one thing publishers have been requesting from Facebook's news efforts for years.

It's potentially a big step for a platform that has long struggled with both stamp-



This Jan. 17, 2017, file photo shows a Facebook logo being displayed in a start-up companies gathering at Paris' Station F, in Paris.

ing out misinformation and making nice with struggling purveyors of news. Though media watchers remain skeptical that Facebook is really committed to helping sustain the news industry.

Facebook declined to say who is getting paid and how much, saying only that it will be paying "a range of publishers for access to all of their content."

Just last year, CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he wasn't sure it "makes sense" to pay news outlets for their mate-

rial. But now, as Zuckerberg told The Associated Press in an interview, "there's an opportunity to set up new long term, stable financial relationships with publishers."

The Associated Press is not participating in the initiative.

News executives have long been unhappy about the extent to which digital giants like Facebook make use of their stories — mostly by displaying headlines and short summaries when users post news links.

A bipartisan bill introduced in Congress this year would grant an antitrust exemption to news companies, letting them band together to negotiate payments from the big tech platforms. "It's a good direction that they're willing for the first time to value and pay for news content," said David Chavern, head of the News Media Alliance, a publisher trade group.

"The trouble is that most publishers aren't included," Zuckerberg said Facebook aims to set up partnerships

with a "wide range" of publishers.

"We think that this is an opportunity to build something quite meaningful here," he said. "We're going to have journalists curating this, we are really focused on provenance and branding and where the stories come from."

In a statement, the Los Angeles Times said it expects the Facebook effort will help expand its readership and digital subscribers.

Facebook killed its most recent effort to curate news, the ill-fated Trending topics, in 2018.

Conservatives complained about political bias, leading Facebook to fire its human editors and automate the section until it began recycling false stories, after which the social giant shut it down entirely.

But what happens when the sprawling social network plays news editor?

An approach that sends people news based on what they've liked before could over time elevate stories with greater "emotional resonance" over news that "allows public discourse to take place," said Edward Wasserman, dean of the graduate journalism program at the University of California-Berkeley. □

Associated Press

Google digs into deeper meanings of searches



In this Aug. 28, 2018, file photo, a cursor moves over Google's search engine page, in Portland, Ore.

BY RACHEL LERMAN

AP Technology Writer

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California (AP) — Google is paying more attention to the small words in your searches.

Want to figure out how to park on a hill with no curb? Google now takes that "no" into account,

and shows top results that include parking instructions without curbs.

The company is rolling out the change to English language searches in the U.S. starting this week. Google said it expects the shift will give better results for every one in 10 searches.

Associated Press

Tweaking its massive search engine is nothing new for Google. The company makes regular changes to be more accurate and show more useful results. But this one is the biggest the company has released in at least five years, said Pandu Nayak, Google's vice president of Search.

The change is rooted in Google's natural language processing research, which studies how to teach computers to understand the nuance of speech and communication. This newest update is based on a training technique called Bidirectional

Encoder Representation from Transformers, or BERT. The technique involves teaching the systems to better understand the order and context in which a word appears.

Google trains the system by using a "fill-in-the-blank" practice, having the machines guess which word is missing in a sentence until it gets better at finding the right answer all the time.

Google has long focused on the keywords in your search term, but this method helps it take into account every word in the sentence in order to better understand meaning

and, hopefully, show more relevant results first.

BERT brings more, better results, Nayak said the company has found through testing this year. But it's not perfect, and the change means some results will miss the mark more than they do now.

"We're really playing a statistical game here," Nayak said.

So will you notice that Google understands your questions better? Well, maybe. Search has gotten much more nuanced since it first launched more than 20 years ago. But changes by themselves are subtle. □

Stocks climb on solid profits, US-China trade deal optimism

By **ALEX VEIGA**
DAMIAN J. TROISE
Associated Press

Stocks climbed in afternoon trading Friday on Wall Street as investors welcomed solid company earnings reports and signs that trade negotiations between the U.S. and China are making progress. Technology, financial and communications services stocks powered the rally, which briefly nudged the S&P 500 index to a record high. The benchmark index was within 0.1% of its closing all-time high set July 26 and is on track to notch its third straight weekly gain. Stocks bounced back from a mixed start Friday as traders sized up another batch of earnings reports from chipmaker Intel, Charter Communications and other companies.

The buying accelerated around midday after the U.S. Trade Representative's office issued a statement saying the discussions with China's negotiating team "made headway and the two sides are close to finalizing some sections of the agreement."

The trade conflict, which has led both sides to impose billions in tariffs on each other's goods, has roiled financial markets and stoked worries that the dispute could tip the global economy into a recession. Those worries eased in recent weeks, after Washington and Beijing worked to calm tensions and then



In this Oct. 2, 2019, file photo specialists James Denaro, left, and Mario Picone work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

resumed negotiations. That's allowed investors to focus on company earnings reports the past two weeks. Traders want to get a sense of how Corporate America is faring against the backdrop of the costly trade war between the world's two biggest economies. Earnings reports so far have mostly exceeded Wall Street analysts' modest expectations. However, many of those that delivered improved results for the quarter have also issued disappointing profit outlooks. Until this week, the market had a mostly muted reaction to company earnings, often closing the day with a modest gain or loss.

After closing lower on Monday, the S&P 500 was on track Friday to extend its winning streak to a third day. Intel rose 7.4% after raising its profit forecast for the year following a solid third quarter. Fellow chipmakers, including Nvidia, also made strong gains. Charter Communications gained 6.9% after reporting solid financial results. The cable operator made some of the strongest gains among its fellow communications companies. Banks rose as bond yields moved higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.8% from 1.76% late Thursday. Consumer product mak-

ers, utilities and real estate companies lagged the market. **KEEPING SCORE:** The S&P 500 index rose 0.4% as of 2:30 p.m. Eastern time. It was holding slightly below its record close of 3,025.86 set on July 26, after briefly pushing beyond. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 153 points, or 0.6%, to 26,958. The Nasdaq gained 0.6%. The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks did better than the broader market with a 0.7% gain. **NOT SO PRIME:** Amazon fell 1.7% after releasing disappointing third-quarter profits and a weak sales forecast for the holiday shopping season. The company had higher costs as

it adds workers in its warehouses and more software engineers for its cloud computing business.

REVVING ENGINES: General Motors rose 2.1% following a key vote at its biggest factory to end a strike that has shut down operations for 40 days. The overwhelmingly positive vote from production workers at GM's SUV plant in Arlington, Texas all but assures the contract will be ratified companywide. **EARNINGS SCORE:** Companies have so far reported surprisingly good profits this earnings season, despite another forecast for a sharp contraction. Just over 39% of companies in the S&P 500 have reported results and 78% beat analysts' forecasts, according to FactSet.

The results have tempered initial forecasts for a profit contraction of more than 4%, but the market hasn't gained much ground. Investors have been here before. Corporate profits were expected to shrink significantly during the first and second quarters, but surprisingly good results eventually led to a very slight overall contraction. **EARNINGS ON DECK:** Some of the biggest names in technology and industry will release their results next week. Alphabet, Google's parent company, will help kick things off on Monday. Drugmakers Merck and Pfizer will report results on Tuesday, as will automaker General Motors. □

US budget deficit hits \$984 billion, highest in 7 years

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal deficit for the 2019 budget year surged to \$984.4 billion, its highest point in seven years, and is widely expected to top the \$1 trillion mark in coming years. The 26% surge from the 2018 deficit of \$779 billion that the government reported Friday reflected such factors as revenue lost from the 2017 Trump tax cut and a budget deal that

added billions in spending for military and domestic programs. Forecasts by the Trump administration and the Congressional Budget Office project that the deficit will top \$1 trillion in the current budget year. And the CBO estimates that the deficit will stay above \$1 trillion over the next decade. Those projections stand in contrast to President Donald Trump's campaign promises that even with revenue lost initially from

his tax cuts, he would be able to eliminate the federal budget deficit with cuts in spending and increased growth generated by the tax cuts. The budget showed that revenue rose 4% in the 2019 budget year, which ended Sept. 30, but that spending surged at twice that rate. Spending increased for defense programs and for the government's big benefit programs for the elderly, Social Security and Medicare.



This Sept. 18, 2019, photo shows the view of the U.S. Capitol building from the Washington Monument in Washington.

Associated Press

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin asserted that Trump's economic program was nevertheless working, with unemployment at its lowest point in nearly

50 years. Mnuchin argued that to put the budget on a sustainable path, Congress must enact proposals "to cut wasteful and irresponsible spending." □

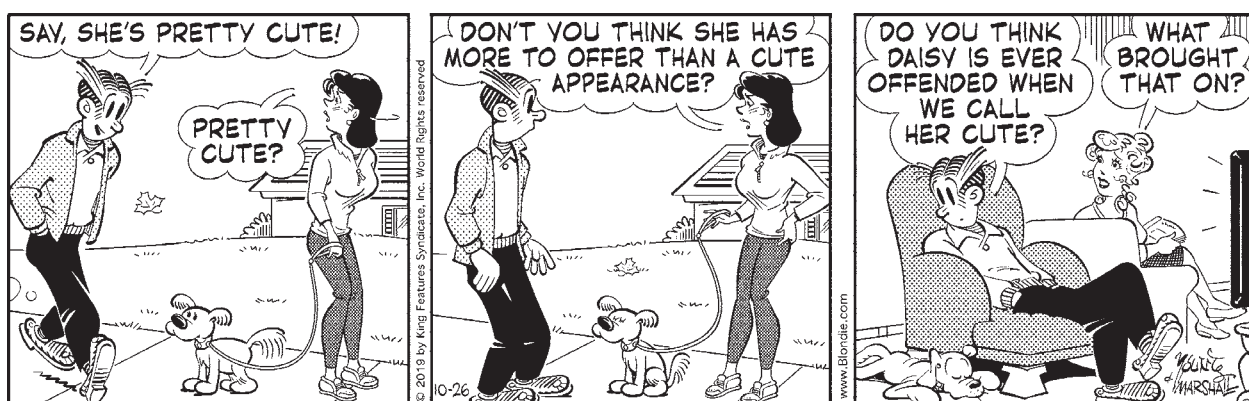
Mutts



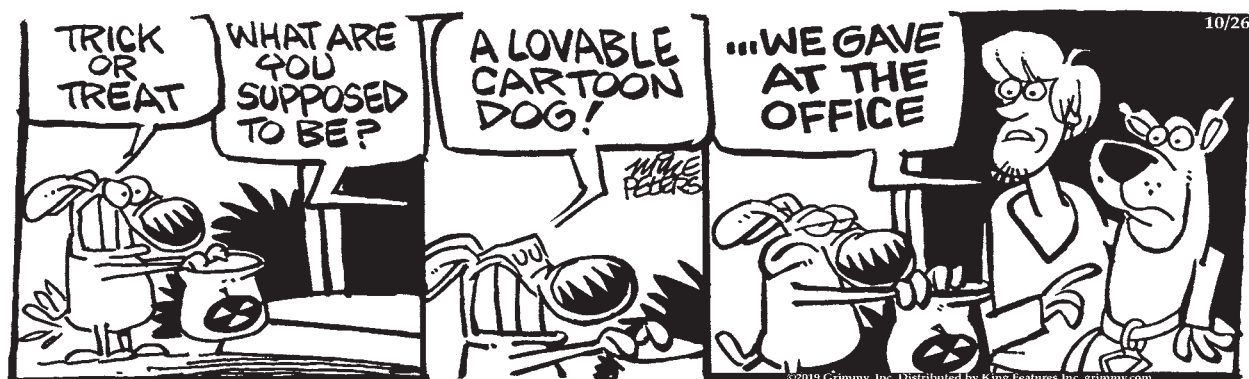
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3		6		9		
			9		8			
		5		7		8		
	2			8			1	
3	7					4		8
	9			1			7	
		9		5		3		
			7		4			
		4		3		1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

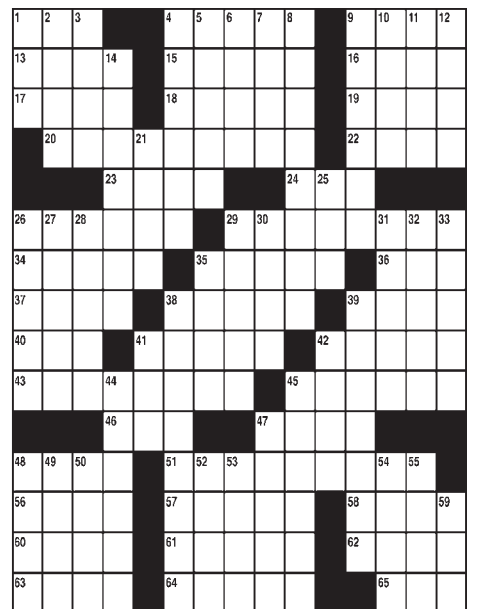
7	2	1	3	6	8	9	5	4
8	4	9	1	5	2	3	7	6
3	6	5	4	9	7	2	1	8
1	7	6	2	8	5	4	3	9
5	9	3	6	7	4	1	8	2
4	8	2	9	3	1	5	6	7
9	3	4	7	1	6	8	2	5
2	5	7	8	4	3	6	9	1
6	1	8	5	2	9	7	4	3

ACROSS

- Wife to Todd, Fisher & Burton
- Deep pink
- of, somewhat
- Paper fastener
- Actor Ballard
- Half a sextet
- Rational
- Letters from Greece
- Landlord's collection
- Derelect in duty
- Benedict; fancy breakfast
- Reagan & others
- Angeles
- Sandal features
- Game bird
- Arrogance
- Duel with lances on horseback
- Actress Jamie Curtis
- TV's 'What's My ?'
- Cries hard
- Polaris or Antares
- my party and I'll cry if I want to...
- Señor Castro
- Fruit salad ingredients
- High schooler
- Like very rough sandpaper
- Stop dime
- First king of Israel
- Usually dry riverbed
- One seeking damages
- High cards
- Weight unit
- No longer valid
- Escape
- Shoptalk
- Delight
- Chewable antacids
- Word of welcome
- Fail to keep up

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/26/19



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

Friday's Puzzle Solved

JUG	OCTET	ARCO
CANE	CHASE	LUAU
RIDE	COMPLACENT	
OLE	PUPPY	COSTS
REARS	GOV	
RIVALS	FOREST	
ALARM	BRIAN	TIN
KILL	PEARL	SURE
EAU	TASTE	ROPES
DECEIT	MODEST	
LAD	SATAN	
SHOES	STAGE	DDE
LEPRECHAUN	TOAD	
OREG	OUNCE	RUTS
PONY	ONSET	ASA

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10/26/19

DOWN

- Dieter's concern: abbr.
- Neighbor of Iraq
- Author Grey
- Log homes
- Cassini's namesakes
- Ceremony
- To ; unanimously
- Lacking energy
- Tension
- Neighbor of Nev.
- Engagement symbol
- Trike riders
- Put down; humiliate
- Easy stride
- Cereal grain
- up; go separate ways
- Commonplace
- Dishwasher cycle
- Strength
- Ship's frame
- Church table
- Approaches
- Rudely brief
- Greenish stone
- New York City
- Closing tightly

- Oscillating blower
- Sulk
- Sounds
- Frankness
- Scorch
- Float on the breeze
- Controversial rights org.
- proper; consider appropriate
- of pork; entree choice
- Mom's sister
- No longer hungry
- market; swap meet
- Portion of a journey

Cleaning plant troubles could lead to hospital tool shortage

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hospitals could soon face shortages of critical surgical tools because several plants that sterilize the equipment have been shut down, government health officials said Friday.

The Food and Drug Administration flagged the issue in an online statement to medical professionals, saying the result could be years of shortages of supplies used in heart surgery, knee replacements, C-sections and many other procedures.

The warning follows the recent closure of several sterilization facilities that use ethylene oxide. The gas is critical for cleaning medical equipment, but it can be hazardous at elevated levels and is increasingly being scrutinized by state health and environmental officials.

"The impact resulting from closure of these and perhaps more facilities will be difficult to reverse," said FDA acting commissioner Ned Sharpless, in a statement, adding that the shortages "could compromise patient care."

The FDA urged hospitals to inventory their supplies and alert government officials if they face major shortages. The agency said regulators

could help identify alternative devices for those impacted by the issue. Sterilization is a daily process at hospitals and many other health care facilities, used to remove bacteria from medical scopes, catheters, surgical kits and other reusable instruments.

Hospitals use various cleaning methods, including heat, steam and radiation. But the oxide gas is the only method for cleaning many devices made from plastic, metal or glass, according to the FDA. About half of all sterilized medical devices in the U.S. are cleaned with the gas, according to studies cited by the agency. Exposure to dangerous levels of ethylene oxide can cause cancer including leukemia and lymphoma, according to the National Institutes of Health. Factories that emit the gas are subject to safety standards by both state and federal environmental laws.

Earlier this year, Illinois authorities closed a large plant owned by sterilization company Sterigenics after detecting high outdoor levels of the gas. This month, the company announced the plant would not reopen. The FDA will hold a two-day meeting next month to discuss new sterilization techniques for devices. □

Classifieds



Marriott Aruba Surf Club

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B Oceanside \$8500
GV \$6k OV \$7k
3BEDROOM \$12500

PLATINUM Season

2B Oceanfront \$27k
Oceanside \$16500
Oceanview \$15500
3BEDROOM \$26k
*WK. 51 GV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$49k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B OV \$8000
1 Bed \$4000
1B Oceanfront \$7500

PLATINUM Season

2 Bed OV \$16500
2B Oceanfront \$24k
1B OV \$10k

** Destination points \$9 per point

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Lots of good terns: Bird ready to fly off endangered list

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After 34 years on the endangered species list, a tiny Midwestern bird is ready to fly free of federal protection.

Once diminished by hunting for feathers for hats and hurt by the damming of major rivers like the Missouri, the interior least tern population has increased tenfold since 1985, to more than 18,000.

The number of colonies has jumped from 48 to 480, said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which on Wednesday proposed taking the bird off the list.

The delisting started six years after the service first suggested that the species has recovered and after computer modeling showed the population will be stable.

Even conservationists and advocacy groups that often battle the Trump administration over what goes on and off the endangered list hailed the migrating bird's recovery as an environmental success story.

"Delisting is reasonable," Center for Biological Diversity endangered species director Noah Greenwald said.

"It shows that when we actually pay attention and care, we can help species and reverse damage we've done in the past. We can undo part of the damage we've done to these rivers."

American Bird Conservancy president Michael Parr said: "All around it's a pretty good news situation."

After nearly being hunted to extinction for feathers for women's hats in the 1800s, the Midwestern population of least terns started doing better until after World



In this Saturday, May 1, 2010 file photo, a least tern checks her two eggs on the beach in Gulfport, Miss.

War II, Fish and Wildlife Service recovery biologist Paul Hartfield said. But then dams, especially on the Missouri River, eliminated the riverside beaches that these tiny birds need.

Working with the Army Corps of Engineers, biologists concentrated on a smaller bird population in the lower Mississippi River. Changes in water management increased the size of islands and created new ones in the river, making more places for the birds to nest and live, Hartfield said.

"The least tern in the Mississippi River exploded" from a few hundred birds in the 1980s to at least 10,000 now, he said.

Greenwald credited the Army Corps of Engineers but added that "the tern has been recovered, but the ecosystem hasn't."

There are three populations of least terns in the United States. One in California is still on the endangered list, and the eastern one is doing fine.

Least terns are the smallest

of terns, but they travel far. Hartfield said one bird was

tagged in South Dakota and later was found in Ja-

pan.

"That's how strong a flyer they are," he said. "It's really a tough little bird."

They nest on the ground and feed on small fish and live quite long for their size, about 15 years, Hartfield said.

These birds migrate every fall to the Caribbean and South America.

Greenwald, of the Center for Biological Diversity, said the least tern is a good example of how the endangered species law can work even as scientists warn of 1 million species going extinct in coming decades.

"We should be proud of ourselves for caring for it and protecting it," he said. "That shows that if we put our mind to it, we can stop the extinction crisis." □

Associated Press

Tiny beetle named after climate activist Greta Thunberg

LONDON (AP) — Climate activist Greta Thunberg has a tiny new namesake.

London's Natural History Museum said Friday that a minute species of beetle is being named "Nelloptodes gretae" in honor of the 16-year-old Swede who has pressed the world to do a better job fighting climate change.

Michael Darby, a scientific associate at the museum who found the insect in its collection of millions of animal specimens, chose the

name to acknowledge Thunberg's "outstanding contribution" to raising awareness of environmental issues.

The beetle is less than 1 millimeter long and has no eyes or wings. It belongs to a 1960s collection from samples of soil and leaf litter in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, which was donated to the Natural History Museum in 1978.

It is part of the Ptiliidae family of beetles, which includes some of the world's smallest insects. □



In this undated photo issued by Entomologist's Monthly Magazine, showing the new species of beetle *Nelloptodes gretae*, named after Swedish environmental campaigner Greta Thunberg.

Associated Press

European lawmakers vote to strengthen bee protection

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Parliament on Wednesday blocked a diluted proposal by the 28-nation bloc's executive arm on protecting bees from pesticides, arguing it didn't go far enough.

European lawmakers adopted a resolution urging the European Commission to "table new legislation based on the latest scientific and technical knowledge."

They said the Commission weakened its initial proposal due to the opposition of 16 member states which did not want provisions in the draft on how pesticides should be tested to protect bees from chronic exposure.

European lawmakers said the Commission only kept provisions protecting bees from acute exposure.

The Commission's draft, they said, "remains

silent on chronic toxicity to honeybees, as well as on toxicity to bumble bees and solitary bees."

In their resolution adopted by 533 votes to 67 with 100 abstentions, they noted that the Commission's text "would not change the level of protection" already in place and asked the Commission to come up with new proposals.

Over recent years, there's been an alarming drop in bee populations, which has stoked fears of an ensuing impact on crop production given the central role of bees. According to figures released by the European Parliament, about 84% of crop species and 78% of wild flowers across the EU depend to some extent on animal pollination, and almost 15 billion euros (\$16.5 billion) of the bloc's annual agricultural output "is directly attributed to insect pollinators." □

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Pioneering director Lina Wertmüller to finally get her Oscar

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In 1977, Italian filmmaker Lina Wertmüller became the first woman to ever be nominated for best director at the Academy Awards. Although she didn't win that year — "Rocky" director John G. Avildsen did — the 91-year-old with the famous white glasses will finally get an Oscar of her own Sunday at the annual Governors Awards.

"This is making me very happy," Wertmüller said last month through a translator.

Forty years ago the Federico Fellini-protege barely even registered the historic nature of her nomination, however. She was too busy thinking about her next film.

"Lina never gave too much importance to awards," said Valerio Ruiz, Wertmüller's biographer. "She left that for other people to talk about."

Ruiz also directed a documentary about Wertmüller called "Behind the White Glasses."

Born in Rome in 1928, Wertmüller had been working in theater, sketch comedy and puppetry before making her transition into film. A friend from school married actor Marcello Mastroianni and he made the fateful introduction to Fellini whom she assisted on the set of "8 1/2."

"Anything that he would ask her to do she would do," Ruiz said. "He would see a face going by in a taxi and he would say 'get me that face' and she would chase the taxi."

The relationship was hardly one-sided. Fellini provided his own crew to help Wertmüller make her first film, "The Lizards," in 1963.

"Fellini was much more than a person and friend," Wertmüller said. "Fellini was like opening a window and discovering in front of you a wonderful landscape which you didn't know before. Our relationship was much larger, much deeper and much more meaningful than anything I can describe."



This combination photo shows Italian film director Lina Wertmüller at her home in Rome, Italy on June 7, 1993, left, and Wertmüller on Jan. 18, 1978.

The picture that ultimately caught the attention of the film academy was "Seven Beauties," a sprawling story about a man with seven unattractive sisters who puts himself on a complicated path during World War II when he murders a pimp who turned one of his sisters into a sex worker. Roger Ebert called it "opaque, de-

spairing, and bottomless" in a review at the time.

Besides "Seven Beauties," Wertmüller had a string of notable films in the 1970s including "The Seduction of Mimi" and "Swept Away," which Guy Ritchie would attempt to remake with Madonna in 2002. But the attention around the Oscar nomination put her on

a different level and soon enough she was signing a contract with Warner Bros. to make four films state-side. There was even a two-page ad in Variety magazine saying "Welcome Lina." The Hollywood honeymoon was short, though. The first film she made, "A Night Full of Rain" with Giancarlo Giannini and Candice

Bergen, was a disappointment. Even she acknowledges it was one of her "least accomplished." Warner cancelled the contract after that.

Was she disappointed?

"Honestly not," she said.

Wertmüller has continued working and is still writing to this day and is currently making the rounds in Los Angeles once more as Sunday's big event nears. The non-profit Women in Film, which honored her with a Crystal Award in 1985, hosted an intimate luncheon for Wertmüller Thursday with attendees like "It's Complicated" director Nancy Meyers and "Valley Girl" director Martha Coolidge.

"The honor is long overdue," said Amy Baer, Women in Film's board president.

On Saturday, "The Lizards" will have its American premiere at the TCL Chinese Theatre, Sunday she'll be feted by the film academy and on Monday she'll receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. □

Ringo Starr's peace and love fills up new album

By PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

Ringo Starr, "What's My Name" (UME)

With enviable energy and the simple, persistent message of "peace and love," Ringo Starr has become one of humanity's quintessential goodwill ambassadors. "What's My Name," his 20th studio album, is another bundle of positivity and cheer, with a handful of good tunes to boot.

Recorded at his home studio (Roccabella West) with a familiar cast of friends like Joe Walsh, Steve Lukather, Benmont Tench and Edgar Winter, "What's My Name" continues Starr's practice of including some sort of Beatle connection on his albums — a guest spot from a Liverpool lad or two, a song one of them wrote for Starr or sometimes just a reference to their collective glories.

A John Lennon demo of "Grow Old With Me" was released not long after his

1980 murder, but it wasn't until recently that Starr found out that Lennon felt the song would be a good choice for the Beatle drummer.

Starr's take has his sincere feelings and Paul McCartney's typically melodic bass playing going for it. On the downside, it's followed by a horrifyingly synthetic cover of Motown staple "Money (That's What I Want)," which Lennon sang when the Beatles covered it.

Other titles, usually co-written by the drummer, are 100% Starr in their sentiment: "Send Love Spread Peace," "Life Is Good" and "Thank God for Music."

"Magic" — a collaboration with Lukather that sounds a bit like a slightly slower "Doctor, My Eyes" — and the faintly Rutles-like "It's Not Love That You Want," written with Dave Stewart, are among the most enjoyable. Saving one of the best for last, the rocking title track was written by former Men



This cover image released by UME shows "What's My Name," by Ringo Starr.

at Work frontman Colin Hay and its biographical details act as a succinct update of the decades since "I'm the Greatest," another Lennon-penned song that Starr sang on his best-by-far 1973 self-titled album.

With the All Starr Band, his 30-year-old touring extravaganza, currently making the rounds again, "What's My Name" is another sign of Starr's seemingly boundless enthusiasm and his love for music. □

In Apple TV's 'Morning Show,' women rebel, men misbehave

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Morning Show" started life as a behind-the-scenes peek at a slice of network TV as familiar and routine as a wake-up cup of coffee. Then shocking revelations of sexual misconduct engulfed NBC's "Today" and beyond, and the story changed. The 10-part drama series, part of the first wave of

shows launching the Apple TV Plus streaming service Nov. 1, expanded its original focus on women's role in media to include the repercussions of workplace bad behavior. It all plays out in the lucrative, hyper-competitive world of A.M. news-and-fluff programming. "When the Me Too movement happened it was really hard to ignore, nor would we want to ignore



This image released by Apple TV Plus shows Jennifer Aniston in a scene from "The Morning Show," debuting Nov. 1, launching the Apple TV Plus streaming service.

Associated Press

it. We would be negligent," said Mimi Leder, an executive producer and director for "The Morning Show." While Hollywood has paid glancing attention to the sexual abuse and harassment scandals that have roiled it and other industries, with accusations derailing the careers of actors, executives and journalists, "The Morning Show" is among the few major projects to delve more deeply. Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon lead the cast that includes Steve Carell, Billy Crudup, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Mark Duplass, Nestor Carbonell and Desean Terry. Aniston plays Alex, the long-reigning queen of the now-slumping "Morning Show," and Witherspoon is Bradley, an outspoken TV reporter with a shaky job history who lands hard on Alex's turf. But Alex's longtime co-anchor Mitch (Carell) has already wreaked havoc. The drama opens with him fired by network UBA for multiple instances of alleged misconduct, evoking Matt Lauer's dismissal from "Today." Mitch's banishment creates career and psychological upheaval for Alex and opportunity for those waiting in the wings for their shot at network glory. Among them is Daniel (Terry), an African-American co-anchor who chafes at what he considers pressure to downplay his ethnicity and hopes the top anchor job will be his reward. There

are impressive displays of ambition and plot twists galore in the three episodes Apple made available of the glossy, expensive-looking drama that's debuting three episodes on Nov. 1. Remaining episodes will be released consecutively on Fridays. Apple TV Plus costs \$4.99 a month after a seven-day free trial, and a subscription can be shared with up to six family members. The streaming service is free for a year to buyers of a new iPhone, iPad, Mac or Apple TV box. Alex's somber on-air response to the scandal evokes memories of Samantha Guthrie and Hoda Kotb telling "Today" viewers about Lauer's November 2017 firing for what NBC called "inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace." The fallout has yet to subside: co-anchors Guthrie and Kotb returned to the subject of Lauer earlier this month after further allegations against him emerged in Ronan Farrow's new book, "Catch and Kill." "Morning television is where the women in television were left to pick up the pieces," observed Mary Murphy, an associate professor at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Series executive producer Michael Ellenberg began work on what became "The Morning Show" before #MeToo, saying he was intrigued by "what it

means to be a woman in media" and specifically a woman with power in the morning network realm. He found the "authentic, precise" details he needed in journalist Brian Stelter's 2013 nonfiction book, "Top of the Morning: Inside the Cutthroat World of Morning TV." Ellenberg optioned the book, Aniston and Witherspoon were attached and Kerry Ehrin ("Friday Night Lights," "Bates Motel") was brought in as writer and showrunner (Stelter, a former reporter with The New York Times and now with CNN, is a consultant-writer). Leder said the drama from a nearly all-female slate of executive producers — including Aniston and Reese — is at its core about the relationship between Alex and Bradley. The two are "colliding at a certain point in their lives," Leder said, with Alex at "a plateau where ageism is starting to hit, and Bradley being this character who's trying to make her mark, and what can these two women give each other?" From Aniston and Witherspoon's takeaway on what women in TV endure, they need all the friends they can find. Women face more scrutiny on "how they're allowed to dress, what jewelry they can and cannot wear," Aniston said. "You never see a man being told you have to ... get that gray out of your hair. You also never really see a gray-haired female newscaster." □

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 SUN 3:30 | 6:00 | 8:30

PBP MON-FRI 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30
 SAT-SUN 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30

COUNTDOWN
 ELIZABETH LAIDL | ANNE WINTERS

PH MON-THU 6:35 | 8:40
 FRI 6:35 | 8:40 | 10:45
 SAT 2:25 | 4:30 | 6:35 | 8:40 | 10:45
 SUN 2:25 | 4:30 | 6:35 | 8:40

PBP MON-FRI 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10
 FRI 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10 | 11:25
 SAT 2:25 | 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10 | 11:25
 SUN 2:25 | 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10

NOTHING TO LOSE 2
 PETRÔNIO GONTIJO | DAY MESQUITA
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-THU 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10
 FRI 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10 | 11:25
 SAT 2:25 | 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10 | 11:25
 SUN 2:25 | 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10

ANGELINA JOLIE | ELLE FANNING

Disney MALEFICENT: MISTRESS OF EVIL

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

PH MON-FRI 6:00 | 8:40
 SAT-SUN 3:20 | 6:00 | 8:40

CXC
 MON-THU 5:15 | 7:50
 FRI 5:15 | 7:50 | 10:25
 SAT 2:40 | 5:15 | 7:50 | 10:25
 SUN 2:40 | 5:15 | 7:50

PBP MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:00
 SAT-SUN 1:25 | 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:00

OSCAR ISAAC | CHARLIZE THERON

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

PH MON-THU 6:05 | 8:10
 FRI 6:05 | 8:10 | 10:15
 SAT 1:55 | 4:00 | 6:05 | 8:10 | 10:15
 SUN 1:55 | 4:00 | 6:05 | 8:10

PBP MON-THU 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40
 FRI 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40 | 10:40
 SAT 2:40 | 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40 | 10:40
 SUN 2:40 | 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40

PBP MON-FRI 4:55
 SAT-SUN 1:05 | 3:00 | 4:55

JOAQUIN PHOENIX | ROBERT DE NIRO

JOKER

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES R

PH MON-THU 7:50
 FRI 7:50 | 10:35
 SAT 2:20 | 5:05 | 7:50 | 10:35
 SUN 2:20 | 5:05 | 7:50

PBP MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20
 SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

PBP MON-THU & SUN 8:30
 FRI-SAT 8:30 | 11:10

CHLOE BENNETT | ALBERT TSAI

ABOMINABLE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

PBP MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:15
 SAT-SUN 1:45 | 4:00 | 6:15

WOODY HARRELSON | EMMA STONE

ZOMBIELAND: DOUBLE TAP

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES R

PH MON-FRI 9:30
 SAT-SUN 4:45 | 9:30

JOEL KINNAMAN | ROSAMUND PIKE

THE INFORMER

PH MON-FRI 7:05
 SAT-SUN 2:20 | 7:05

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Carol Burnett among panelists for discussion about memoirs

By HILLEL ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For at least one night, Carol Burnett was a writer among writers. The beloved entertainer was among three panelists Thursday for "An Evening of Memoir," presented at the MacDowell artist colony's intimate event space in Manhattan. With some 50 people in attendance, many MacDowell officials and supporters, she was joined by the retired Princeton University historian Nell Painter and the author and literary event host Amanda Stern. Their backgrounds differ greatly, but they identified with each other as memoir writers and through more common life experiences, whether conflicts with their parents or the struggles of writing itself.

The 86-year-old Burnett's presence was, understandably, a matter of interest in itself. MacDowell is a century-old institution, with its colony based in Peterborough, New Hampshire — home at various times to artists ranging from James Baldwin to Leonard Bernstein. Burnett has never been a MacDowell fellow, unlike Stern and Painter. But she is a longtime friend



In this Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017, file photo, Carol Burnett arrives at the "The Carol Burnett 50th Anniversary Special" at the CBS Television City in Los Angeles.

of the colony's executive director, Philip Himberg, who served as moderator Thursday, and her fellow speakers showed obvious pleasure in being with her. Stern, who also has a background in comedy, tweeted last month about the event: "I don't know how this happened, but I'm glad I did. Come meet your icon, and I don't mean me!" All three read from their work: Burnett from "One More Time" and "Carrie and

Me"; Painter from "Old In Art School: A Memoir of Starting Over," about her late-in-life decision to take up visual art; and Stern "Little Panic," what she calls the autobiography of an emotion she knows too well. Memoirs in themselves can be an education. Painter, whose books include "The History of White People" and "Creating Black Americans," said she had to unlearn a lifetime of scholarly writing for "Old in Art

School." Stern said that only through conversations with her editor did she realize that much of her life had been a search for comfort and security. Stern also noted that another reward of memoirs is how they make you feel less alone. Burnett and Painter both acknowledged feelings of being "misfits," as Himberg described them, and the pleasure in defeating the low expectations of others. For Painter, that was the

art teacher who doubted her talents, for Burnett the manager who badgered her and eventually fired her when as a teenager she worked at the now-defunct Warner Brothers movie theater in Hollywood.

"A few years later, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce asked me where I would want my star on Hollywood Boulevard," she said, adding the obvious answer: "Right in front of the old Warner Brothers theater." When Stern spoke of overwhelming and crippling feelings of attachment to her mother growing up, Burnett remembered being so tied to her grandmother that she feared leaving her sight, wondering if her grandmother would die once she was away. Both also found that writing about their families help bring them closer. Burnett said that her parents were both alcoholics and that writing about them became a "catharsis," a process of forgiveness. Stern recalled her mother reading the book and for a day sending texts that were variations of "Amanda I never said this." But at the end of the day, her mother texted, "Well, that was just wonderful." □

Associated Press

New Ronan Farrow book is meticulous and devastating

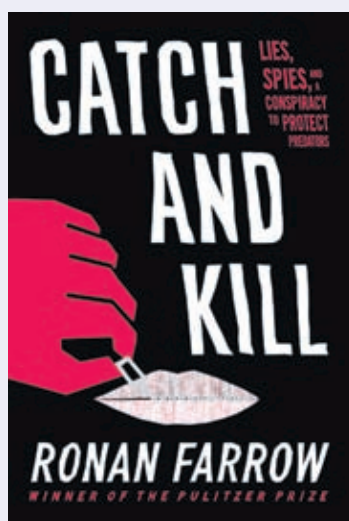
By RASHA MADKOUR

Associated Press

"Catch and Kill," Little, Brown and Co., by Ronan Farrow

Anyone who has read Ronan Farrow's meticulous reporting that helped amplify the #MeToo movement would have an idea what to expect his book to be like. "Catch and Kill" delivers. It offers a look behind the scenes and exhaustively documents how he came to report on the dozens of sexual harassment allegations against film producer Harvey Weinstein, despite myriad obstacles.

Farrow had been working on investigative reports for NBC, including a series about the "dark side" of Hollywood, and Wein-



This cover image released by Little, Brown and Company shows "Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators," by Ronan Farrow.

stein's name kept coming up. Within the first 80 pages of this 414-page tome, it becomes clear why this

apparently open secret failed to gain traction in either law enforcement or among journalists who previously tried to report on it. As an example, the NYPD had worked with an accuser and obtained a taped confession that Weinstein groped her, and yet, the Manhattan district attorney's office chose not to press charges. Farrow documents how various members of Weinstein's legal team made significant campaign contributions to that same DA. Equally troubling, Farrow's bosses, who began getting persistent phone calls from Weinstein, advise Farrow to "give it a rest" and work on other stories. Given the extensive detail Farrow provides about these in-

teractions throughout the book, it is difficult to believe NBC's blanket denial over Farrow's version of events.

Farrow makes a compelling case that, beyond bowing to pressure from an influential studio head, NBC may have shied away from the story because several of its executives and personalities, including "Today" co-host Matt Lauer, also had sexual harassment allegations in their closets. The Weinstein story was just the tip of the iceberg that began to reveal how prominent men in various industries used their positions of power to sexually harass women and face no consequences. We learn that Allen had hired private detectives to

trail law enforcement officials who were investigating him, a "campaign to disrupt the investigators," and charges were ultimately dropped. Farrow shows how Weinstein employed similar tactics, hiring an Israeli firm to track and investigate his accusers, Farrow and others. Farrow gets a sense that he's being followed and multiple sources urge him to be careful; this is when the book starts to sound more like a novel. Farrow puts copies of his reporting and the evidence in a safety deposit box, should anything happen to him. As he gets closer to publishing the story, Farrow moves out of his apartment into a friend's "safe house." □

Australia's iconic rock Uluru scaled by final climbers

Associated Press

ULURU, Australia (AP) — Nature seemed to be siding with indigenous Australians' demand for Uluru to be respected as a sacred site on Friday when high winds threatened to prematurely end the generations-old tradition of climbing the sandstone monolith.

Rangers warned hundreds of anxious tourists who gathered at the base of the iconic rock before dawn that they would miss their last opportunity to ever scale its 348-meter (1,140-foot) summit unless blustery conditions subsided.

But the winds calmed and the first of around 1,000 climbers began their ascent at a chain handhold up the steep western face three hours later than scheduled. An indigenous onlooker booed them.

The ascent was permanently closed to climbers late in the afternoon, while those already on the rock had until sunset to find their way down. A potential medical problem was reported with a climber but authorities could not immediately provide details.

Janet Ishikawa flew from her Hawaiian home to central Australia to make the climb on the final possible day. She likened the Uluru controversy to a furor over plans to build a giant telescope on Hawaii's highest peak, which protesters consider sacred.

"It's a total overreaction. All of a sudden they want to take ownership of all this stuff," Ishikawa said. "They say you shouldn't climb because of all this sacred stuff. I can still respect it and climb it."

The ban was a unanimous

decision made two years ago by 12 members of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management. But it's an outcome that has divided both indigenous Australians as well as the wider world.

The polarity of opinions has been highlighted in recent months as thousands of visitors converged on one of Australia's most famous landmarks to make a final trek to the top. Tourists have been illegally camp-

ing on roadsides for miles (kilometers) because the local camping ground and accommodation were booked.

Sammy Wilson, who chaired the board that banned the climb, described the prohibition as a cause for celebration. Wilson is member of the Anangu tribe who are Uluru's traditional owners.

"If I travel to another country and there is a sacred site, an area of restricted access, I don't enter or climb it, I respect it," Wilson said. "It is the same here for Anangu. We welcome

tourists here. We are not stopping tourism, just this activity."

There has long been tension within the indigenous population around the money that climbers bring and the rock's significance as a sacred site.

"I am happy and sad, two ways," said Kevin Cooley, a resident of the Mutitjulu indigenous community in the rock's shadow who collects the Uluru tourists' garbage. He fears that tourist num-

bers and the local economy will decline. The biggest drop in foreign visitors could be the Japanese who have proven to be the most committed climbers. Signs around the rock have long discouraged climbing, describing Uluru as a "place of great knowledge" and noting that Anangu traditional law prohibits climbing.

The proportion of visitors who climb has been steadily declining, with more than four in five respecting the Anangu's wishes in recent years. The Anangu refer to tourists as "munga," or ants. The analogy was clearest in recent weeks with queues forming long before the climb opens at 7 a.m. each day at the base of the rock's steep western face. From there, an eclectic mix of climbers begin their ascents in narrow columns. Prominent indigenous academic Marcia Langton reacted to the stream of climbers with a tweet: "A curse will fall on all of them."

"They will remember how they defiled this sacred place until they die & history will record their contempt for Aboriginal culture," Langton added. Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt said he was disappointed by the final rush to climb the rock, which is renowned for its changing colors with the seasons and the time of day.

"It would be equivalent to having a rush of people

died, mostly from medical events, since 1948, when the first road was built in the hope of attracting tourists. Every death causes the Anangu anguish.

Denying climbers access to the World Heritage-listed landform is part of an evolution of the Australian narrative since British colonization that has traditionally edited out the original inhabitants.

While the rock had been known as Uluru for thousands of years, British-born explorer William Gosse was credited with discovering it in 1873 and named it Ayers Rock after the then-premier of the British colony of South Australia, Sir Henry Ayers.

In 1993, it became the first official dual-named feature in the Northern Territory when it was renamed "Ayers Rock / Uluru." The order of the names was reversed a decade later at the request of regional tourism operators.

But the tourist accommodation nearest Uluru retains the name Ayers Rock Resort, in deference to the monetary value of the international brand recognition that has built up around it.

The date of the closure is also significant in the history of restored indigenous influence in the region. Saturday — the day from when climbing becomes punishable by a 6,300 Australian dollar (\$4,300) fine — marks 34 years since the federal government gave the Anangu the land title to the national park in which Uluru stands. □

Associated Press



In this April 22, 2014, file photo, the sun rises over Uluru, Australia. A climbing ban from late Friday, Oct. 25, 2019 on the sandstone monolith called Uluru that dominates Australia's arid center marks indigenous Australians finding a new voice in national decision-making.



Tourists climb the sandstone monolith called Uluru that dominates Australia's arid center at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Friday, Oct. 25, 2019, the last day climbing is allowed.

Associated Press



In this Oct. 10, 2019, photo, tourists view the sandstone monolith called Uluru that dominates Australia's arid center at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

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